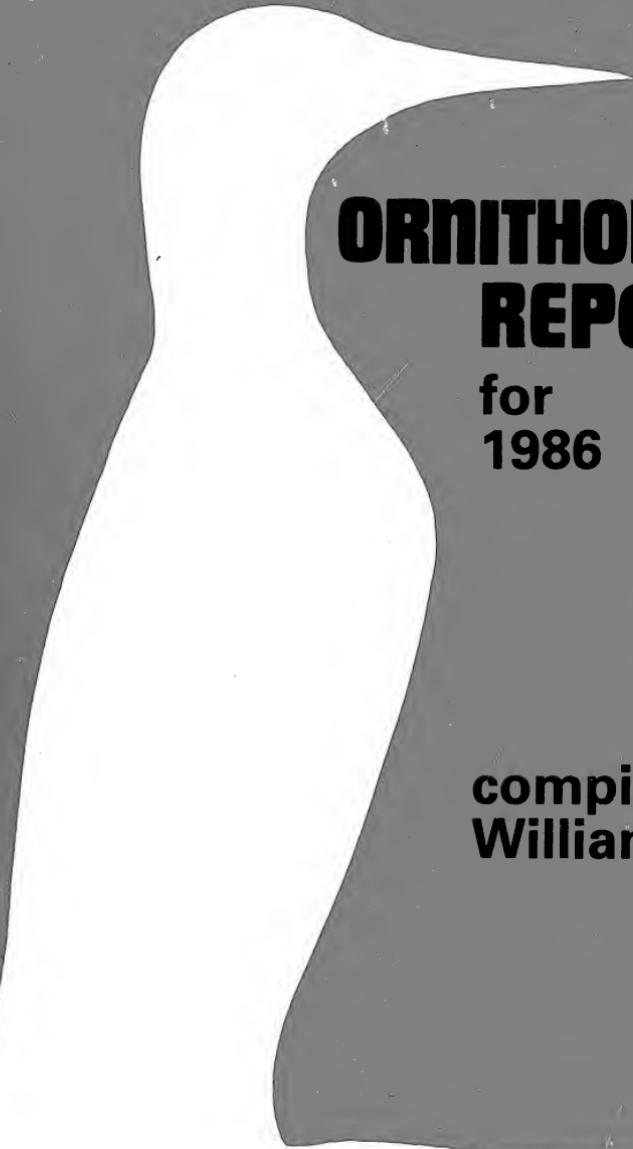


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**Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**



**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
REPORT**

**for  
1986**

**compiled by  
William F. Curtis**

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# Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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## Report for 1986 Edited by William F. Curtis

During the year 281 species were recorded in the County of which 143 were proven to breed. As with the previous year, Goshawk and Peregrine again showed signs of a very slow increase though the former still suffers greatly from interference by man whilst the latter was badly affected by the weather. Hobby bred successfully for the first time since 1948 and Sparrowhawk continues to increase being the most common bird of prey in some areas. Other raptors had a good year with more than usual reports of Osprey, Marsh Harrier and Montagu's Harrier. Honey Buzzard again summered though it is not considered that breeding occurred.

Wildfowl, generally, continue to thrive with Red-breasted Merganser breeding near Sheffield; Goosander expanding its breeding range though it is still subject to persecution by fishing interests where the two conflict and Ruddy Duck maintains the spread in its eastward range. Of the geese, Snow and Barnacle again bred whilst Grey Lag and Canada still slowly increase. Garganey had an excellent year with a minimum of four breeding pairs. Great Crested Grebe, though showing an upward trend, had a poor season owing to cold weather and high water levels.

The general overall trend with seabirds was up whilst waders had an average year though Little Ringed Plover had a poor year in V.C. 61. No details concerning the Easington Little Tern colony were forthcoming.

Magpies everywhere continue to increase particularly in the conurbation of Sheffield. Black Redstart fared well with a minimum of six breeding pairs – one double brooded whilst Grasshopper Warbler had its best year for some time.

Of the rarer birds. A White-billed Diver was found dead at Filey; more than usual Storm Petrels and Leach's Petrels were reported, including several inland. Purple Heron, Little Egret and Cattle Egret (second county record) all put in appearances.

Two little Shearwaters were reported from Flamborough as was a single Great-winged Petrel which, if ultimately accepted, is the first record for the Western Palearctic.

The second county occurrence of Black Duck was reported from Broomfleet Ponds whilst other Neararctic wildfowl recorded were American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck (possibly as many as four) and Green-winged Teal. Large numbers of Smew were again present and, after 1985, constituted the second best year ever.

Of the rarer waders, both American and Pacific Golden Plovers were recorded. The Red-necked Stint at Blacktoft was the first reported in the British Isles though this may

be predated by the 1973 Brough Stint should this bird eventually be specifically identified. A Black-winged Stilt was seen in the Doncaster area whilst a Kentish Plover called briefly on the River Derwent.

Large numbers of Ruff were recorded at Blacktoft, Cherry Cobb and Tophill Low Res. A Lesser Yellowlegs set a very high standard for the newly opened Dams Reserve at Filey whilst other North American waders recorded were Pectoral Sandpiper and an unidentified Dowitcher.

The drainage of the larger of the two reservoirs at Tophill produced an ideal habitat for passage waders resulting in very large numbers of some of the less rare species including a count of Green Sandpiper of almost three times the previous county high.

Skuas again were reported in good numbers with once again the highest total of Long-tailed Skuas being surpassed. Great Skuas were also reported in record numbers at Flamborough. Spurn had record numbers of Little Gulls during late October though this was eclipsed by the huge numbers during this same period at Flamborough. Two Ross's Gulls were recorded, one at Hornsea, the other at Flamborough. Of the less rare gulls both Common and Lesser Black-backed attempted to breed. Roseate Tern had a good year with 14 birds being reported and of the rarer terns both Caspian and Gull-billed were seen at Flamborough.

Spurn recorded their second ever Black Guillemot and their second highest count of Little Auks on 1st November when large numbers were recorded elsewhere along the Holderness coast.

A large influx of Long-eared Owls occurred during mid November at Spurn when the previous highest daily count was surpassed. Elsewhere roosts of 18 and 23 were recorded.

Numbers of Barn Owls appear to be static with the stronghold for this species being Holderness. Large counts of Nightjars were reported from Thorne Moors and Dalby Forest.

Hirundines generally had a good year with autumn passage at Spurn being the highest for several years. Swifts were reported in large numbers along the coast with a new county high being recorded at Flamborough and Spurn reporting their second highest daily total.

Bluthroats were scarce with only three being reported though two of these were inland. Heavy passage of Fieldfares was noted over the southwestern moors on 2nd November though few were reported along the coast.

Barred, Icterine and Yellow-browed Warblers all had their best years whilst a new daily high for the county was achieved for Garden Warbler at Flamborough. Of the rarer species Spurn reported Subalpine, Greenish and Pallas's whilst at Flamborough Savis's, Marsh, Blyth's Reed, Arctic, Radde's and Pallas's were reported.

A Nuthatch at Flamborough was the first for that location while a little further along the headland a Woodchat Shrike gave many visitors to the Bempton RSPB Reserve excellent views. This latter location provided the only record of Cirl Bunting. Spurn had the only Scarlet Rosefinch with the only Serins of the year being reported from there as were two Little Buntings with others at Flamborough and inland at Skipton.

Ortolan Buntings were seen at Spurn, Flamborough and Filey with Flamborough reporting one definite Arctic Redpoll and two other birds considered to be of this species.

Snow Buntings continue to be scarce compared to 15 years ago – a testimony to the change in farming methods.

The Reports Committee thanks local recorders and the very many observers throughout the County who have submitted their records to the YNU. As Editor may I express my gratitude to the V.C. recorders for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

WILLIAM F. CURTIS JULY 1988

## Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977). B.O.U. 1977.

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Reported during all months from the coast with, generally, larger counts in the latter part of the year. 114 off Flamborough on 5th January and 69 there on 26th whilst at Hornsea the highest count of the month was 24 on 12th, and even smaller numbers at Spurn where no day produced more than 12. 75 at Flamborough on 16th February with 160 on 23rd; 37 at Hornsea on 20th and only single birds on three days at Spurn during the whole of the month. The highest count of the year of 335 birds on the sea at Grimston on 21st March probably accounted for the increase at Spurn when 120 were off shore on 25th and at least 166 flew north there on 28th. Numbers further along the coast at Hornsea and Flamborough during this period being low. Up to 40 were recorded at Spurn during the early days of April whilst small counts were reported from both Flamborough and Hornsea though 31 were at Filey during this period. Numbers further decreased during May with a maximum of 20 at Filey and 16 at Flamborough.

Recorded on half the days of both June and July at Flamborough in small numbers with less frequent reports from the other coastal watch points. August likewise produced small counts becoming more frequent into September with 408 birds being reported from Flamborough during the course of the month though the highest count was only 49 on the 20th. A slight increase during October with 76 at Spurn on 26th and 73 there on 31st on which date there were 52 off Flamborough. Only small counts at Spurn in November except for 69 on 21st but a significant increase at Flamborough and Hornsea where on 2nd 210 and 121 were reported respectively. Scarcer at Flamborough in December with half the monthly total being reported on 21st when 111 were counted whilst at Spurn birds were only reported in low double figures until 103 on 30th and 95 the following day.

Along the Humber single birds were reported from Sunk Island on 2nd March and 16th November; at Hull Docks on 2nd January, 16th February and 24th November whilst further west at Blacktoft singles were recorded on 13th January and 26th October.

An oiled bird was at Hornsea Mere on 6th December; a single freshly dead bird found at Castle Howard on 14th April; a single bird at Pugney's G.P. on 29th January was seen to depart to the east whilst one called briefly at Angler's Lake, Winterset on 1st November. Single bird at Gouthwaite Res. on 9th February whilst three seen flying west over Warmsworth on 27th August and a single flying north east over Esholt on 18th April were almost certainly of this species.

### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One or two birds reported from several locations along the coast particularly in V.C. 61 although slightly fewer birds recorded than in the previous year. Three or more birds reported during the early months with four at Flamborough on 5th January and three at Hornsea on 20th February. (PAL:GRB)

Single birds were recorded at Flamborough on 3rd; 8th and 14th June; 12th July with one at Hornsea on 19th August.

More widespread during September, all of single birds with the exception of two at Flamborough on 13th then during October, 22 birds at that location with peaks of five on 24th and four the following day; 13 were recorded off Hornsea on nine days during

the month whilst at Spurn one to three were reported regularly during the first half of the month and a similar number almost daily during the latter half. At Staithes, a single on the sea on 25th with a further six birds considered to be of this species flying off shore, four on the sea there the following day with a further nine birds flying off shore (MJH:JLL).

Decrease in both numbers and occurrences during November though four to the north off Spurn on 2nd and three at Flamborough on 23rd. One to two birds at Hornsea on five days during the month of December with singles at Barmston, Filey, Fraithorpe on one day, Flamborough on three. Filey, where this species is usually well reported, had only single birds on four days during the year; January, October and November being the other months.

A single bird flew west at Sunk Island on 26th October (JW) whilst further inland along the estuary one was reported over Blacktoft Sands on 15th January (AG).

Two birds, one of which was oiled, were present on the River Ouse at Poppleton from 18th February to 1st March (DA).

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

The only record during the early part of the year was a single bird off Flamborough on 16th February.

Single birds were at Flamborough on 7th June and at Spurn on 26th, when the bird flew east over the narrow neck.

Quite well distributed during the last three months with singles both at Flamborough and Hornsea on 11th October, Flamborough on 12th; Hornsea on 18th, Flamborough on 19th; 21st and 23rd with two there on 22nd and 24th. Single birds at Staithes on 24th and 26th with one at Filey on the latter date. Single at Filey on 31st (PAL:MGR:MFr.MJH)

At least ten large divers were reported from Filey on 1st November of which six were definitely of this species (SC:HJW et al), two at Flamborough and two at Hornsea on the same date. (PAL:GRB). Three off Flamborough on 2nd (PAL): whilst 5 large divers, one definite Great Northern, at Filey on 8th (PJD) when two were reported from Hornsea. (GRB); single birds at Filey on 13th and 22nd, Barmston on 16th (BR), Flamborough on 22nd and 30th and Spurn on 16th. Two at Flamborough on 23rd.

Singles at Filey on 6th and 21st December (FN:DJW); at Flamborough on 21st and 28th (PAL); Barmston on 1st (BR).

A single immature, present at Castle Howard from 27th November to 21st December (JP.TED.DW et al) was the first record for the York area.

Single bird which spent much of the 3rd November at Winterset Res. was seen to depart to the northwest in the late afternoon (SD:KD)

### **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*

A single bird was found dead at Filey on 18th February (TK).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

In V.C. 61 the only proven breeding record came from Broomfleet Ponds where several pairs were reported during the year, one on 3rd June having seven young (TAE). An adult plus juvenile on a pond at Grimston on 7th June may have bred in the area. Quite well distributed along the River Hull north of Beverley with between seven and ten frequently near Hempholme during the early months of the year and smaller numbers between there and Driffeld. One to four birds were reported during the winter months from Filey, Flamborough, Hornsea Mere, Easington/Beacon Lane Ponds (Kilnsea), Spurn Point, Sunk Island, Stone Creek, Saltend, Grimston and Wheldrake Ings.

Very few reported from V.C. 62, the only breeding reports coming from the Pickering area where four pairs were present, two of which reared young. Seven birds at Strensall Common during May but no record of breeding from that locality.

Well distributed in V.C. 63 though actual numbers of breeding pairs is unsure. Seven pairs raised 20 young at Blacktoft Sands whilst in the Huddersfield area eight pairs had mixed success. At least six pairs bred around Sheffield though some of these may have been in Derbyshire as exact locations not reported. Stated as present during most months at many sites in the Doncaster recording area though again no indication of breeding success, maximum counts reported being; 26 at Winterset Res. on 6th November, 23 at Wath/Broomhill on 31st August, 22 at Wentworth on 17th November, 18 on River Don near Sprotbrough on 6th December and 14 at both Thrybergh and Ingbrichwith on 14th September and 24th August respectively.

In V.C. 64, 32 pairs were known to have bred rearing over 60 young at 12 sites. Maximum counts received being 26 at Fairburn Ings on 9th August with a similar count at Mickletown Ings on 10th September, 16 at Knotford Nook on 10th October.

No breeding records from V.C. 65 but counts of 25 on 30th August and 20 on 6th October from Bolton-on-Swale.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The wintering flock off Fraisthorpe and Barmston peaked at 95 on 25th January decreasing to 46 on 22nd February thence to 34 on 22nd March. During the latter months there were 55 there on 15th November though only 10 two days later and 12 on 27th December.

Breeding in V.C. 61 was low with one pair at Hornsea Mere which successfully reared two young and seven pairs at Broomfleet Ponds though no more than four young were reported.

Along the coast small numbers were reported away from the main wintering area with maximum of nine at Filey during February; four at Flamborough on 23rd February. Numbers at Hornsea were higher during the late summer and early autumn with 12 on 12th July and 16 on 22nd August. One to two occasionally at Easington, Spurn, Cherry Cobb and Whitton Sands.

Inland, at Tophill Low Res., one to three regularly during February to April with occasionally up to seven thereafter five almost daily until the end of September thereafter very scarce with only four records of one to two birds to end of year. Occasionally along the lower Derwent with six at Wheldrake on 28th March as the highest count there.

Two immatures seen at Castle Howard on 16th August were the only indication of breeding in V.C. 62 where generally numbers were low throughout. Away from this location five were at Dringhouses on 22nd April with one to three occasionally at Clifton Airfield and Sand Hutton.

In V.C. 63 some 65 pairs were reported as breeding on 16 sites though many failed due to either unstable water levels, cold weather or predation, giving a total of about 83 young reared from some 38 pairs. Winterset Res. held the largest population where nine pairs out of 13 hatched 26 young. Newmillerdam conversely produced only three young from seven pairs. Maxima during the early months were 38 at Pugney's G.P. on 8th March; 36 at Bretton Park on 1st April with 33 there on 13th; 28 at Winterset Res. on 22nd March and 7th April. In the latter months 54 at Winterset Res. on 1st August consisted of 30 adults and 24 young; 37 birds still present there on 14th September with 34 at Blackmoorfoot Res. during July to September. 24 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 14th September.

V.C. 64 also reported a poor breeding season with 19 pairs producing under 30 young and a further nine pairs failing altogether. One to two birds occasionally at Fairburn Ings, Eccup Res. and Knotford Nook during the winter months prior to commencement of spring passage in mid March; peaks of 18 at Fairburn Ings on 19th April and 13 at Eccup Res. on 5th May. Owing to the poor breeding season autumn numbers were low with 25 at Eccup Res. on 24th July and 22 at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th August.

A single pair had three young at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. though none survived. No other reports from V.C. 65.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Most of the reports came from the coast with few during the early months of the year. Two flew north off Flamborough on 18th January when a single bird was also seen flying north off Filey. A single bird at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 2nd February; singles at Filey on 8th and 11th with one at Whitby on 13th. A single bird was in the Scarborough area from 15th to 24th February. A single bird along the Humber near Hull Docks on 6th February. A summer plumaged bird was present at Filey on 3rd May whilst a similar bird was reported from Hornsea Mere between 16th and 20th May (IJP:GRB) and possibly the same bird from 29th to 31st (JCW:BP).

Single birds off Flamborough on 14th and 24th July with a juvenile at Tophill Low Res. on 13th August and another juvenile there on 30th and 31st (PMS TR *et al*). Single to the north off Hornsea on 19th August with one at Flamborough on 28th. Slightly more records during the latter months with a single in Filey Bay from 20th September to 28th, singles at Flamborough on 13th, 20th and 29th with two there on 14th, singles at Spurn on 25th and 29th. Two south at Hornsea on 19th October with single birds at Flamborough on 4th, 14th and 25th whilst one was at Filey on 23rd and 26th. One on the Humber off Whitton Sands on the 3rd (TAE).

A single bird at Scarborough on 8th October with another at Scalby Mills 14th November.

A single record from V.C. 63 of a bird on the River Dearne near Wath Ings from 3rd to 15th March being found dead on the 16th.

Single at Eccup Res. on 23rd November the only record from V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 65 a single bird was present at Nosterfield G.P. from 7th to 29th March.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

The majority of records coming from V.C. 61 with a single bird at Flamborough on 12th January (AMA:DGH), single at Filey on 18th and 19th (PMS *et al*). A single at Broomfleet Ponds on 31st remained until 4th February (TAE). Single at Filey on 15th February (PJWS). Single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 2nd March (IJP:GRB) and between 9th and 13th April (IJP:SML).

Two at Flamborough on 25th August (PAL:AMA).

A single bird south at Hornsea on 18th October (GRB) with two north off Spurn on 21st (MGN), singles at Filey on 24th (HJW) and Hornsea on 30th (SML). November saw singles at Hornsea on 1st (GRB): Atwick on 3rd (WFC), Flamborough and Hornsea on 6th (PAL:JCL:BR), Barmston on 15th and 16th (SML:BR).

A single bird at Scarborough on 8th and 25th February (RHA), the only record from V.C. 62.

Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 15th February (AG) and at Southfield Res. on 29th December (JACW).

A single bird at Eccup Res. on 6th October (RLD:SPS) the only bird reported from V.C. 64.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Single bird at Filey on 8th; 9th and 19th February (MJG *et al*), one at Pugney's G.P. on 16th April. Single at Hornsea Mere on 22nd April (IJP). Single bird at Fairburn from 27th April to 25th May and 9th to 12th June (GRW *et al*). Pair at Tophill Low Res. seen displaying on 3rd May (IF *et al*).

Single at Tophill Low Res. on 9th August. A single bird at Easington Lagoons on 25th August was seen on 13 days to 10th September (GRE *et al*). Single birds at Hornsea Mere on 21st August (GRB); 31st August (EWC) and 9th September (IJP).

A single bird on the sea at Hornsea on 21st October (BR) and finally one at Filey on 14th December.

**Albatross sp** *Diomedea sp*

Addition to 1985 Report.

A single bird first seen flying north then out to sea at Spurn on 13th October was not specifically identified (JE & JMD:BA).

Accepted as Albatross sp by YNU and still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

A census conducted from a boat of the cliffs to the north of Filey on 14th June produced 252 occupied nests (FBOG) whilst an estimate by the RSPB of the Bempton breeding colony gave between 650 and 800 pairs, a blue phased bird being seen at the latter colony on 18th August.

Large numbers seen along the coast particularly at Filey and Flamborough with 3690 at Flamborough on 16th January, 1906 on 1st February; 5920 north there on 5th June followed by 10190 on 6th and 4490 on the following day, 2100 on 19th July, 4835 on 19th August with 3055 on 29th. 6290 on 10th September and 8900 on 13th. Thereafter small numbers with the exception of 288 on 5th October, 557 on 2nd November and 520 on 21st December. Numbers at Filey were equally high though counts were reported as birds per hour; up to 700 per hour in January, 800 in February after which numbers reduced. 400 per hour north on 6th December with almost 1000 per hour on 20th.

Smaller numbers along the coast to the south of Flamborough Head with 600 at Spurn on 6th June and 772 off Hornsea the following day; 427 at Hornsea on 10th August, 430 there on 19th, 731 at Spurn 12th September with 590 on 8th and 400 on 3rd.

'Blue' phased birds reported frequently at Flamborough with five on 1st February; 13 on 13th June and 36 on 19th, six on 20th August, seven on both 6th and 7th September with 13 on 14th; five on 21st November and 10 on 21st December. Four flew north off Hornsea on 2nd February. Single birds at Filey on nine days during the year with three single birds at Spurn.

A pure white bird off Filey on 26th April and again on 21st May.

Along the Humber; single bird off Sunk Island on 30th March with four to the east there on 24th May, one east and two west on 25th; two at Blacktoft Sands on 6th June; five west at Paull with one later returning east on 7th June; single east at Sunk Island on 15th June and one west there on 25th August.

Inland in V.C. 62 single birds were reported from near Thirsk on 22nd May, High Marishes on 28th June whilst two were recorded flying towards Hasty Bank on 27th April, and two sitting on the cliffs near Sutton under Whitestonecliff on 6th June and 6th July.

Inland in V.C. 63, a single bird flew west at Pugney's G.P. on 6th February and one near Halifax flew west on 23rd May.

Single birds reported from V.C. 64 at Esholt on 5th February and Staveley on 11th August.

**Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera*

A single bird reported off Flamborough Head on 18th September (PAL) and presumably the same individual again on 27th (AMA:DGH).

Accepted by the YNU Records Committee. Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

Single birds off Flamborough on 29th May (PAL, JCL, JMP *et al*); 16th July (PAL); 18th July (AMA:DGH:PAL). Four to the south there on 1st August (PAL). Singles north off Hornsea on 3rd and 5th August (GRB), two there on 10th August flying north (GRB), single to the north on 13th (GRB) with singles off Flamborough on 19th (JCL); 20th (PAL) and 31st August (AMA:PAL). Single bird to the north off Hornsea on 4th October (GRB) and lastly a single off Flamborough on 2nd November (AMA).

Addition to 1985 Report: Single bird flew south off Scarborough on 17th August (TME).

### **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

Only three reports all of single birds and all from Flamborough, on 12th August (PAL:JMP): 31st August (AMA:PAL) and 17th September (JCL:PAL).

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

An out of season record of a single bird to the south off Scarborough on 2nd January (KW). The next record, of a single bird off Flamborough was on 5th June, followed by further single birds there on 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th July after which there were three on 13th, 12 on 19th and four on 30th (a total of 29 during the month). Reported on 22 days during August at Flamborough with a total of 1625 birds, 106 being recorded on 18th, 346 the following day and 721 on 20th. This movement was also noted at Filey with 39 there on 19th and 78 on 20th whilst Hornsea had 16 on the 19th and Spurn Point 10 on 18th. All these birds moving north. 70 were at Flamborough on 21st with 73 on 31st. The next large movement occurred on 3rd September with 189 off Flamborough; 25 off Filey; 109 at Hornsea and 70 at Spurn of which 69 were recorded in the late evening.

Flamborough continued to report good numbers to the middle of September with 285 on 4th; 80 on 8th; 52 on 10th; 59 the following day with 64 on 13th and 66 on 16th. Hornsea recorded 12 on 8th, the only record away from Flamborough of more than ten birds after 3rd September. October saw smaller numbers with 45 at Flamborough on 4th when 10 were seen passing north off Hornsea; 18 at Flamborough on 5th and seven there on 26th.

11 off Flamborough on 1st November with five at Hornsea the same day and 10 at Flamborough on the 2nd.

82 flew north off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 23rd August in slightly over three hours whilst 26 were reported from the same location on 3rd September and 21 the following day.

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Two inland records of single birds, both in the York area. The first concerns a bird attempting to land on the A19 near Deighton on 11th February, before being observed flying weakly off to the east. Not only unusual in being an inland report but also an unusual date (TB). The second concerns a bird which called briefly at Wheldrake Ings on 26th May (TB *et al*).

The first coastal record was of a single bird at Filey on 31st March. From early May birds became quite widespread along the coast with four at Tunstall on 4th (TI) and four at Hornsea the following day. By the end of the month birds were being reported regularly from most coastal watchpoints with 44 off Flamborough on 27th; 51 at Hornsea on 28th; 83 at Flamborough and 32 at Hornsea on 29th and 294 at Flamborough the following day. June saw the largest numbers with 113 at Flamborough on 4th, 869 there on 6th when 116 were reported at Spurn, 290 at Flamborough on 7th, 159 on 21st. Large numbers throughout July with Flamborough again having the bulk of the birds; 651 there on 13th; 110 on 18th; 524 on 19th when 69 were recorded at Hornsea; 108 on 21st at Flamborough and 375 on 30th.

Numbers decreased at Flamborough during August though Hornsea had their highest monthly total. 103 at Flamborough on 9th with 104 at Hornsea the following day; 131 at Flamborough on 20th when 49 passed Hornsea; 100 off Flamborough on 24th with 27, mainly north, off Grimston on that day. 27 off Hornsea on 25th when 206 were counted off Flamborough followed by 150 there on 28th.

A further decrease in numbers in September with 242 birds passing Flamborough on 21 days with peaks of 37 on 4th and 39 on 16th whilst 11 on the 8th at Hornsea was the highest count there. Recorded on 12 days during October at Flamborough with 17

on 4th; 15 on 24th and 62 on 26th when 21 were reported from Spurn; nine being reported from Staithes the previous day.

25 off Flamborough on 1st November when four passed Spurn with 45 at the former location the following day when Hornsea had four birds. The last were single birds at Flamborough on 20th and 21st December.

Birds of the Balearic race *P. p. mauretanicus*, mainly from Flamborough with single birds on 21st June; 13th, 14th and 21st July; 10th, 17th, 21st, 23rd, 27th and 31st August; two on 3rd September with singles on nine further days and two on 13th; two on 4th October, single on 1st November with three on 3rd.

Hornsea reported single birds on 5th June, 19th, 20th and 23rd August, 3rd October, 1st and 2nd November with two on 5 August. At Spurn a single bird on 26th October.

#### **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

Single birds reported from Flamborough on 15th and 24th September (PAL:JCL) and 11th October (DIMW).

Accepted by the YNU Records Committee. Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

More than usual reported from Spurn Point with single birds on 27th May, flying north; 21st August to the south, 23rd to north; 9th September, north; 4th and 5th October, both to the north.

A single bird was observed flying north at both Hornsea and Flamborough on 2nd November and may have been the same individual (GRB:PAL).

Two storm blown birds picked up exhausted on British Gas Platform 47/3B (about 12 miles east of Withernsea) on 4th December were cared for and released on 5th and 7th (AJ).

Single bird seen flying towards the harbour at Whitby on 24th October was also observed by seven Great Black-backed Gulls which attacked and ate the bird (JL:MJH).

A single bird was found dead at Frickley Colliery on 9th August (JF:ML). This being the first record for the Doncaster area since 1845.

#### **Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Single bird at Flamborough on 6th June (JCL) with single at Spurn Point on 8th September flying north. Two there on 1st November, one north, the second north before returning to the south.

Single birds were reported inland in V.C. 63 at Ardsley Res. on 8th September (JM *et al*) and one flying into the Humber from the River Trent at Blacktoft on 30th October (AG).

#### **Gannet** *Sula bassana*

Four counts of the colony at Bampton were carried out from a boat giving an average of 650 breeding pairs. On the last of these counts over 590 of these sites had young (RSPB).

Counts along the coast produced normal numbers with the highest being reported from Flamborough where 304 were recorded on 5th April increasing slowly throughout May to 421 on 30th; June had large numbers with 1438 on 4th 1349 the following day and 2205 on 6th and 1998 on 7th thereafter under 1000 except for 1509 on 21st; under 1000 during July with 994 on 13th as the monthly maximum. Slightly more birds during August with the highest counts towards the end of the month when 1173 were recorded on 24th; 1535 on 27th; 1670 on 28th; 1095 on 30th and 1082 on the last day of the month. Smaller numbers in September with 885 on 4th and 728 on 11th; 892 on 4th October with further peaks in that month of 689 on 5th and 782 on 25th. Numbers were very much lower during the last two months of the year with 189 on 1st November and 423 the following day whilst the highest count in December being 114 on 21st.

Similar peaks were noted at Hornsea where the highest counts were 433 on 23rd August and 488 on 27th: Filey with a highest count of 304 on 4th October; Staithes where 470 were counted on 7th June, 1217 on 25th October and 591 there the following day. 240 to the north at Scarborough on 27th August. Spurn had 225 on 6th June though reported smaller numbers during the early autumn with slightly more during the latter part. 156 were recorded there on 31st August with 394 on 26th October.

Occasionally recorded from the Humber with seven at Paull on 7th June and three there on 5th October, these same birds being seen at Sunk Island. A single juvenile at Sunk Island on 12th October with two flying east there on 9th November and a single to the west on 7th December. A single juvenile was reported flying west along the River Ouse at Blacktoft on 22nd October.

A first year bird was seen flying south along the River Derwent on 27th September.

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

17 pairs breeding at Ravenscar (RHA) and 25 breeding pairs north of Filey where the breeding colony was surveyed by boat for the first time (PJD *et al*). The highest counts along the coast were reported from Flamborough and Filey. The former had very low numbers during the first five months of the year and it was not until early June that counts of more than 10 were recorded. Passage was noted during August with 25 on 24th and 44 on 28th thereafter larger numbers were reported during September with 51 on 11th; 60 on 14th; 76 on 19th and 72 on 21st: good numbers throughout October with peaks of 89 on 12th; 83 on 17th; 76 on 19th; 99 on 25th and 92 the following day. Slightly lower numbers reported in November; 64 on 2nd; 65 on 9th thence 48 on 15th decreasing to be scarce by December, the highest counts being nine on 1st and eight on 28th.

Filey had a similar pattern with the highest monthly counts there being during the latter half of the year with up to 60 during August; 99 in September; 52 in October and 53 in November.

Smaller numbers along the coast to the south being reported daily off Hornsea with birds commuting to the Mere where the tree roost was deserted during the severe weather of February, birds roosting on a shingle spit to the west of Swan Island; maximum counts there being 48 on 4th February; 40 on 30th October and 50 on 29th November – a slight decrease again over previous years.

Spurn Point, along with other coastal areas reported highest counts during the autumn with most birds being recorded during October.

Along the Humber at Cherry Cobb, birds were reported on almost all visits to early June and again from mid September. Birds here were frequently recorded flying west in the morning and east in the evening; the usual counts being two to three birds though 10 flew west on 26th January. At Sunk Island, reported regularly except during June and July with up to four on many days and eight flying east on 4th May with 10 on 11th: seven were recorded on 20th September and six on 18th October.

Further west three birds were reported at Whitton Sands on 3rd May with 11 flying west on 11th October. Blacktoft Sands recorded birds throughout the year except July though scarce during June and August, the highest counts there being five to the west on 11th April and six west on 17th May with a further eight being seen that day.

Tophill Low Res. reported one to three to early June with peaks of eight on 5th January and between six and eight from 8th February to early March; seven on 20th April. One to three from late August to end of year with five on 26th December.

Five were at Figham, near Beverley on 5th January with seven there on 26th. Occasionally reported from Broomfleet Ponds with two on 5th May; two on 12th September, 4th November, 4th; 19th; 21st; 23rd and 26th December. Five at Pocklington Canal on 31st March.

Regularly along the Lower Derwent River, particularly at Wheldrake Ings with three on 23rd and 29th March increasing to four the following day; five on 1st April and three on 2nd. Two from 12th April until 10th May.

Inland in V.C. 63 a single bird was seen flying to the south east at Winterset Res. on 17th May with four to the north east the same day. One to three birds were reported passing over or for one day only from more than 20 other locations with most birds being reported during April/May and August/September though a long staying bird in the Wakefield area from 6th September to late December.

Reported during every month of the year from V.C. 64 with 19 sites being involved. Numbers were usually one to three though four at Fairburn Ings during October; 5 at Masham G.P. on 19th January; five over Westwick on 3rd February and five at Knotford Nook on 5th May.

In V.C. 65 birds were reported from Bolton-on-Swale until mid June and again from early October with peaks of 39 on 2nd March and 25 during December. Thornton Steward Res. had 22 on 9th March with up to 10 during December.

Birds showing the characteristics of the *P.c. sinensis* were reported as follows; two at Flamborough on 5th April and a single on 19th May; single birds at Hornsea Mere on 8th, 9th and 22nd February; 1st and 2nd March, 22nd March, two on 5th and 10th April with a single on 12th. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 6th and 19th April. Spurn Point on 25th March. Blacktoft Sands on 16th March; Wath/Broomhill on 23rd March. Single at Ravenscar on 12th April.

### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotellus*

A survey of the cliffs to the north of Filey by boat revealed no sign of breeding thus the optimism of previous years may have been unfounded.

Numbers at Flamborough Head were much lower than the peaks achieved in 1984 with 195 on 4th January, 290 on 12th and 140 on 26th; 124 on 8th and 121 on 15th were the peak counts during February. Much reduced numbers in March with 21 on 1st and 27 on 8th. Counts were under 20 during April and May with the exception of 40 on 30th May; 134 on 7th June and 62 on 21st. The autumn build up began during August with 180 on 24th; 160 the following day and 150 on 27th; Numbers were similar during September with a slight increase in October giving peak counts in that month of 293 on 4th; 296 on 24th; 288 on 25th and 268 on 27th. November again saw a slight increase with 439 on 1st; 388 on 9th; 411 on 15th and 333 on 16th; in December 221 were reported on 14th with 159 on 20th and 136 on 27th.

Counts at Filey were low during the year with no birds being reported during June, July and August; the maximum count being 29 in March. Bempton had slightly more birds with a high count of 47. Rarely reported from Hornsea with single birds on 6 days, two on 2nd November and three on 26th December.

Few records from Spurn Point compared to 1985, usually of single birds though eight on 25th September.

Along the Humber a single immature flew east at Paull on 18th May with a single bird off Sunk Island on 11th. Single birds were recorded at Hull Docks on 16th and 23rd February and 25th October.

26 on the sea off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 24th February.

A single adult at Gouthwaite Res. on 25th May and an immature at Knotford Nook on 29th December, single at Dunscroft on 1st March being the only inland records.

### **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

A single bird at Hornsea Mere was observed on seven days between 4th January and 8th March with possibly two birds there on 27th February (two separate sightings).

Flight display was noted at Broomfleet Ponds where a single bird was present from 8th January to 15th March. A single there also on 13th December (TAE).

Single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 1st January. One there between 6th and 27th September; 17th and 22nd October and on 8th November and 15th December could easily have involved the same individual (AG).

Single at Potteric Carr from 14th January to 2nd May was joined by a second bird from 25th February. A single at the same locality on 12th December.

Single bird at Fairburn Ings on 11th and 26th January.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

A single bird flew west over Hornsea Mere on 30th September; the second record for Yorkshire (D. L. Gardner:C. Hogg).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

A single present at Adel Dam from 1st to 5th November, third county record (TR:SPS:DH *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 28th June was the tenth record for the county (AG).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Nest building reported from Scampston though no numbers reported (BS & SP).

Becoming increasingly scarce at Hornsea Mere where none were recorded during September; November and December, maximum count being three on 5th October. One to two infrequently at Flamborough with three on 6th October. The newly formed Dams Reserve at Filey has brought an increase in records from that area with one to two during late summer early autumn. One to two on many days at Tophill Low Res. from late April to end of September with three on 18th and 27th February; very scarce there during the winter months. Along the Humber at Cherry Cobb similarly scarce during the winter months and distinctly scarcer than in 1985. Only six birds were seen to cross the estuary to and from Lincolnshire in contrast to 1985. Maximum count for the area between Stone Creek and Cherry Cobb Sands being seven on 21st July. Sunk Island also reported a decrease on the previous year; five birds being the highest counts on 11th May and 21st June.

Reported in every month from Broomfleet Ponds with maximum of three birds. Quite regular at Easington Lagoons/Beacon Lane Ponds from mid June to mid September with four on 20th June; 28th and 30th July; seven on 23rd and 24th August and five on 6th September.

One to three quite frequently at Spurn Point though fewer birds during the first half of the year.

In V.C. 62 bred at Ellerburn Bank with approximately 11 nests and at Kirk Dale though no numbers reported from this latter location. A roost at Pickering held 12 birds until mid February then from three in August which increased to about 12 by the end of the year.

In V.C. 63, a total of 16 young were reared from eight nests at two sites in the Sheffield area. Five pairs reared four young at Bretton Park.

Up to six birds were reported from many locations with higher counts from Ryburn Res. where 12 were counted on 2nd February; 17 at Wentworth on 7th July and 15 there on 2nd November. Nine at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th July – there has been a large increase of sightings at this location – up to eight at Blacktoft during August and nine there during September. Eight at Rivelin Dam on 30th October.

20 recorded at Wath/Broomhill on 10th July with 18 in August. 11 at Potteric Carr on 26th July. The 'white' bird reported from Potteric Carr during 1985 was seen there on various dates throughout the year.

Widely reported throughout V.C. 64 with possibly a slight increase in numbers reported at some sites. Bred at Dob Park where 19 pairs raised 39 young; five pairs at Askwith; six at Dacre; seven at Westwick and eight at North Stainley. The highest gatherings being 24 at Westwick on 13th December; 34 at Gouthwaite Res. in October and 31 there during November.

Bred at West Burton and Great Langton in V.C. 65 though no totals received.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

A single adult flew to the south west over Winterset Res. in the late evening of 23rd April (PAM) and a single bird at Broomfleet Ponds on 5th May (TAE).

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

A single bird was reported between Howthorpe and Foggathorpe on 11th June (DB).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Single bird at Hornsea Mere on 21st April (RSPB). Three flew south over Tophill Low Res. on 4th May (BS). Single bird at Broomfleet Ponds on 1st July (TAE).

Single bird at Blacktoft Sands between 26th June and 1st July with a second individual there on 7th and 8th July (AG).

A single first summer bird at Fairburn Ings on 10th June (JG *et al*).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Very few breeding reports received from V.C. 61 with two pairs at Hornsea Mere although only one pair fledged young: Two pairs at Tophill Low Res. with no young being fledged: One pair on the Driffeld Canal, no report of young and one pair at Easington Lagoons with seven young.

Two pairs bred in V.C. 62, both in the Pickering area and both rearing several young. V.C. 63 had 10 pairs which raised at least 17 young. V.C. 64 reported a good breeding season along the lower Aire with 20 pairs rearing at least 38 young though elsewhere in the V.C. breeding was reported as poor with only three pairs raising eight young. Two pairs reported from V.C. 65 with six young.

The moulting flocks at the two main locations; Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings reached 144 at the former on 10th July; 183 at the latter on 11th July increased to 230 by 9th August. Winter counts at these two locations were 83 at Fairburn on 3rd January with low numbers at Hornsea Mere, 76 at Fairburn on 26th November whilst Hornsea had over 50 during the months of November and December until very high water during the last week of the year was responsible for most birds leaving.

Away from these two sites the highest counts received were 31 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th September; 27 on the Driffeld Canal on 6th December; 25 at Pugney's on 26th January; 25 at Wath/Broomhill on 25th December and 22 at Blacktoft on 2nd and 3rd March.

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

The monthly maxima at the main stronghold, the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas were 67 in January; 126 in February with a decrease to 39 in March and the last bird being reported on 23rd though a very late bird at Wheldrake Ings on 25th May. Smaller numbers reported from many locations during the early months with higher counts of 11 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th February, 12 to the west over Blacktoft Sands on 9th January and 53 east there on 16th March; 50 to the east southeast at Spurn Point on 17th March. 20 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th January; 11 at Newington/Mission on 12th January, eight at Fairburn Ings on 9th January was the highest count there during the first part of the year whilst 11 were reported from Low Barden Res. on 8th March.

Possibly reported from more locations during the latter months. The first returning birds to the Lower Derwent were five on 6th November (three juveniles) with four adults on 25th November thereafter a build up to 95 by 30th December with a maximum of 26 immatures on 25th (TED *et al*).

Elsewhere the first reported were two over Esholt on 26th October, with up to seven at Tophill Low Res. during the third week of November and eight there on 14th December. 11 called briefly at Scout Dyke Res. and Broadstones Res. on 23rd November, 16 northwest at Ossett Spa S.F. on 27th November with a similar number at Angler's Lake the following day. One to five birds at eight other locations in V.C. 63 during the last two months of the year.

Very few in V.C. 64, five at Coniston Cold on 3rd November with one or two birds at Fairburn Ings; Westwood and Swillington Ings on seven days.

Six at Bolton-on-Sale on 21st December; five at Spennithorne on 22nd November and three at Thornton Steward on 28th November.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

A decrease in numbers on the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas with up to 16 during January; 30 in February; 38 in March decreasing to nine in April with the last two birds there on 26th. Six called briefly at Hornsea Mere on 5th January whilst five were at Kilnsea/Spurn Point on 29th March. Otherwise V.C. 61 had only one to three birds at six locations although a single bird consorted with a Mute Swan at Broomfleet Ponds from 1st January until 1st July.

In V.C. 63; 14 were reported from Broomhill Flash on 5th January when seven were at Misson and six at Thorpe Marsh. 11 at Broomhil/Wath on 4th February, seven at Old Denaby on 18th January remained until 26th. Single birds were reported from Thorpe Marsh and Wath Ings on 1st May with one at Tudworth Quarry on 6th and 9th.

The stronghold of this species, Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64 had monthly maxima of 127 on 24th and 25th January; 137 on 12th February; 110 on 4th March decreasing to 48 by the end of the month with the last bird, eight, on 27th April. 52 were at Mickletown Ings on 3rd April. A late bird was recorded at Swillington Park from 15th to 18th May.

Up to 19 were recorded in the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton areas of V.C. 65 during the first three months of the year with a single bird there on 6th and 7th May.

In V.C. 61 the first birds reported during the latter months were two at Wheldrake Ings on 18th October thereafter few birds in the V.C. though eight at Hornsea Mere on 13th November were most likely the same birds that were reported from Tophill Low Res. on 15th where 11 were present on 28th December. Numbers on the Lower Derwent at North Duffield built up from five on 4th December to 28 at the year's end.

Slightly more at Spurn during these latter months with one to four birds involved but eight to the southeast on 7th December.

The first birds to return to V.C. 63 were four at Blacktoft Sands on 26th October on which date a single bird was reported from both Ingbirchwith and Blackmoorfoot Res. One to seven birds were then recorded from six sites during the following two weeks thought 11 at Bentley Tilts on 1st November. 20 were at Wath/Broomhill on 29th November; 15 at Thorpe Marsh on 12th December; 18 to the west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th December and 21 over Low Moor, Bradford on 25th.

11 were present at Fairburn Ings on 31st October with lower than usual counts at this locality during these latter months of the year; 27 recorded there on 28th November with 30 on 14th December. 20 in the Ribble Valley during mid November with a peak count there of 33 on 4th December.

Bolton-on-Swale held two on October 22nd building up to 24 by the end of December.

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*

Single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 13th September was only the second record from that location. A single bird at Wheldrake Ings from 22nd February with two there on 16th March; five on 30th and three on 2nd, 7th and 9th April; the single bird being last seen on 25th April. Four at Aughton Ings on 10th March.

Single bird at Castle Howard on 16th March may have originated from the Lower Derwent.

Single bird at Givendale, V.C. 64, on 22nd and 23rd February.

Five birds were present in the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton areas of V.C. 65 from 27th February to 1st March.

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

With the lack of records from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge this year, very few reports of large numbers in V.C. 61. 450 were reported flying from the Refuge towards Lincolnshire on 15th January with 150 at Broomfleet on 19th October. The first records for this area being 42 at Whitton Sands on 15th September with 28 there the following day. 40 were at Broomfleet on 27th September whilst 85 flew south at Spurn on 17th December.

Eight were on the Lower Derwent during January with four in February and 14 on 8th March. 22 at Wheldrake Ings from 20th to 29th December.

A single bird present at Castle Howard throughout the year being joined by a second bird on 2nd November and 18th December.

Many records from V.C. 63. Birds moving to and from the Humber were reported at Blacktoft with 111 on 1st January; 103 on 16th January and 375 on 27th February. 200 flew east at Swinefleet on 29th January. Further inland 130 flew west over Winterset Res. on 16th February with six skeins totalling 547 birds counted flying over Sheffield between 11th and 19th January, and c130 over Sprotbrough Flash and Potteric Carr on 4th January with c100 over Thrybergh on 12th.

During the latter months of the year many records commencing with 25 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th September; 100 to 150 on the Humber during October with 220 on 15th and the last record being of 120 to the east on 28th November.

130 west over Huddersfield on 23rd October; a total of c800 eastwards over Sheffield on 1st and 2nd November with 976 east in five skeins over Concord Park in the same city on 15th November. 300 to the north east over Huddersfield on 17th November and 200 west over Sheffield on 18th. 170 to the south at Broadstones Res. on 6th December whilst 300+ were observed over Ewden Heights on the same date. 500 were feeding on potatoes at Swinefleet Common on 10th.

150 over Wath/Broomhill on 15th November with 250 north there on 29th and 120 east on 6th December whilst at Thrybergh 180 were reported on 13th December and 150 over Braithwell on 30th.

In V.C. 64; 25 in the River Valley on 3rd January with 30 over Farnham on 2nd March and 80+ over Horsforth on 1st April. Otherwise one to three birds at several locations with a single bird remaining at Fairburn Ings until early June. From 21st April to 19th May a single bird appeared to be sitting on a nest amongst the Canada Geese at Otley G.P. but no young were seen.

250 over Gouthwaite Res. on 17th October with 50 at Knotford Nook on 17th November increasing to 100+ the following day and 150 on 19th. 170 over Greenhow Hill on 26th November and 150 Bardsey, Leeds on 27th. 12 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 20th November was the highest count from V.C. 65.

Skeins of grey geese, which were most likely of this species, were reported from Huddersfield; 300 north east on 17th November, 200 west over Brighouse on 29th; 100 over Huddersfield on 2nd December and 90 south at Ingbirchwith on 6th.

### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Far fewer records than in 1985 with the majority being reported from V.C. 61. Single at Hornsea Mere from 2nd to 5th January with three at Tophill Low Res. on 19th February; seven were near Hull Docks on 22nd February. Single at Filey on 15th March, six at Saltend on 6th April with four at Hull Docks on 14th and a single at Hornsea Mere on 19th. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 16th May and at Filey on 28th August.

The only records during the latter months along the coast were five to the south at Spurn on 16th November, singles at both Spurn and Hornsea Mere on 10th December and two at Flamborough from 24th to 27th.

Inland, in V.C. 61, a single bird at Wheldrake Ings from 20th March until 19th April when it was joined by a second bird.

Single adult at Castle Howard, V.C. 62, from 18th to 30th December.

A single bird was observed with a skein of Canada Geese flying south over Misson on 6th January.

Single birds were at Staveley on 23rd February and an adult at Gouthwaite Res. on 18th May and from 24th to 27th May.

Single at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 4th January to 16th April was also reported from Great Langton.

A single bird showing the characteristics of the Greenland race *A.A. flavirostris* was present at Wheldrake Ings from 23rd February to 17th March and possibly the same bird at Castle Howard from 21st March to 5th April.

**Grey Lag Goose** *Anser anser*

In V.C. 61, bred at Hornsea Mere; Rise Park; Burton Constable; Tophill Low Res., Broomfleet Ponds; Melbourne Brick Ponds and possibly near Paull. As usual Hornsea Mere was the stronghold with 44 young being reared. With the exception of Melbourne no other breeding reports were received from the Lower Derwent though up to 90 birds were present throughout the year with maximum of 458 during February: 406 at Hornsea Mere on 4th January, 580 on 27th and 28th September with 594 on 9th October decreasing to 430 on 28th November. Tophill Low Res. had between 400 and 500 during September with a record count of 582 on 11th. 114 at Broomfleet Ponds on 9th November being the highest count of the year there.

No breeding reports from V.C. 62 and with the exception of 80 to the south at Forge Valley on 16th December no large numbers were reported.

In V.C. 63 the only breeding record came from Thorpe Marsh where seven pairs reared 20 young. Elsewhere 56 were reported at Frickley Colliery on 10th June with birds regularly at Blacktoft Sands during the summer months, highest counts there being 53 during February; 30 to 40 in September and 40 on 7th October.

Bred at Westwood, five young; Ripley Park, four pairs with 21 young though no records received from the strongholds of V.C. 64; Ripon Park and Staveley. A pair bred at Swillington Park rearing four young; the first breeding record from the Leeds area.

One to five birds reported with Canada Geese at several locations with larger counts of 139 at Nosterfield in August; 90 at Ripley in November; 118 at Givendale in February and 120 at Staveley in December.

In V.C. 65 one pair raised two young at Bolton-on-Swale where the maximum counts were 483 on 28th February and 402 on 17th December.

**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

A single bird accompanied the Grey Lag Geese at Broomfleet Ponds from 1st January to 19th March. This bird being reported from Blacktoft Sands throughout the same period. A single bird accompanied c130 Pink-footed Geese over Sprotbrough Flash and Potteric Carr on 1st January. Three at Cusworth Park on 9th January.

In V.C. 64, a single pair bred at Ripley Park rearing five young whilst birds were present at Farnham G.P. until early spring with 18 on 1st and 9th January. A single blue phased bird was at Eccup Res. on 20th June and 28th August. From September to end of year one to 12 birds were reported from five locations in the Harrogate area including two hybrids of either Grey Lag  $\times$  Snow Goose or Canada Goose  $\times$  Snow Goose extract.

A single bird at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. between 6th February and 17th March with 12 at Masham G.P. on 11th September.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

In V.C. 61, bred at Hornsea Mere and Pulfin Bog though no reports received from other known breeding locations. The highest count at Hornsea Mere being 285 on 11th June, slightly down on previous years though the winter numbers appear to be stabilising around the one hundred mark with 114 on 4th January; 120 on 8th February. 57 were at Flamborough on 29th August with a maximum count of 38 at Tophill Low Res. on 7th June; 29 flew south at Broomfleet on 21st September.

No breeding numbers reported from Castle Howard though counts of over 135 were reported there during the last five months of the year with up to 195 during November. Elsewhere in the York area, the Lower Derwent recorded maxima of 340 during January; 435 in February; 300 in March and 375 in December; again no reports of breeding received.

Two pairs bred in the Pickering area, the only definite record for V.C. 62.

V.C. 63 reported breeding at eight locations including an unsuccessful first attempt at Blacktoft Sands. Birds in this V.C. continue to show a tendency to spread to reservoirs away from the lowlands for breeding. Bretton Park, the main breeding location in this

V.C. held 375 birds on 10th October whilst other high counts were 333 at Harthill on 18th October; over 400 at the Rother Valley Country Park, a very high count for this location. 324 at Pugney's on 9th January with 389 there on 28th September and 200 on 31st December.

Continues to do well in V.C. 64 with almost 300 young raised though those on high ground were thought to have had a poor and late breeding season.

The largest numbers reported were 434 at Fairburn Ings during the summer with 600 in the Staveley area during February and October; 884 at Eccup Res. on 27th February and 716 there on 10th September with 806 in the Eccup/Harewood area on 14th September.

No breeding reports from V.C. 65 though large counts from several locations being 626 at Nosterfield in August; up to 300 at Masham G.P. during late September: 298 at Leighton Res. on 27th January and 244 there on 1st December; 270 at Spennithorne on 18th January; 232 on 9th March and 251 on 22nd November; c400 roosting in the Leyburn area in November.

Single birds showing the characteristics of the race *B.c. minima* were reported from Hornsea Mere during the early months of the year and at Eccup Res. from 20th to 31st August; 7th to 14th September and 17th to 26th November.

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

As with the previous year one to ten birds were reported from many locations throughout the year, many associating with either Canada Geese or Grey Lag Geese.

Two pairs bred this year; one at Hornsea Mere where one young was reared and Bretton Park with five young being successfully reared. No comment has been received concerning the breeding of birds at Flamingoland near Pickering though it is assumed that this is still taking place and that the slow increase of the wintering flock at Hornsea Mere is a result of an increase in numbers at the former location. This flock contained 96 birds on 4th January with 95 on 8th February and the same number on 1st March; being last seen on 4th March. The birds arrived back at Hornsea on 17th October having increased to 98 birds with 99 on 28th November; a single Bar-headed Goose always being in attendance.

Nine in the Ribble Valley from 12th to 15th November may have been wild birds as most likely would the 35 at Angler's Lake, Winterset on 21st November; their arrival following a night of rain and north east winds. A skein of 78 over Leighton Res. on 27th September also pose problems as to their origin.

Six birds present at Redmire Res. from 19th to 21st July were ringed and stated to be from a free flying flock of captive breeding birds at Martin Mere (per Sheffield Bird Study Group Report).

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

The Humber flock at Spurn Point was present almost daily until 6th April excepting five days in January and two in March. During January counts were mainly in the high double figures though 150 present on 25th and 26th. Higher counts in February with generally over 100 but 330 on 4th and only two on 19th and 20th. Reduced counts in the first half of March with again high double figures except 140 on 1st and 138 on 6th; decreasing to low double figures and single figures by the end of the month. One to 13 almost daily during April to the 18th thence up to 21 to end of month. 24 on 1st May, 19 the following day with eight or nine to 7th; seven on 13th and singles on three days towards the month's end with four on 31st.

Seven flying north over the Humber on 6th September were the first of the autumn then daily from 17th to end of year with the exception of two days in September; two in November and three in December. Numbers increased to 51 by 26th September and remained in double figures until end of October with a maximum count of 85; more variation during November from single figure counts to occasional three figures with between 156 and 164 from 9th to 13th and 124 to 153 from 26th to 29th. Similar pattern throughout December with maximum count of 180 on 28th.

No first year birds were seen during the autumn at Spurn.

Further west along the Humber; 15 were present at Sunk Island on 2nd March with 9 to the east at Cherry Cobb on 16th February and an unprecedented 84 there on 16th March. Four adults there 16th to 22nd November; two adults and two young on 6th December; all eight being present on 20th. Six flew west at Blacktoft on 23rd February with three there on 24th. Single to the east on 24th October and four along the River Ouse on 26th.

Along the coast, 26 were at Easington Lagoons/Beacon Lane Ponds on 1st January with 46 the following day; 30 on 22nd February and 24 on 5th March.

Smaller counts off Hornsea with 15 north on 2nd November and 21 off Flamborough the same day. Three flocks of 12; 10 and eight were reported flying north of Ravenscar on 31st August.

Six at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 23rd March.

Birds of the pale-breasted race *B.b. hrota* were reported from Spurn with 11 south offshore on 14th February; four on the Humber on 22nd; two on 22nd March; singles on 20th September and 24th October. 11 were at Easington Lagoons/Beacon Lane Ponds on 22nd February with 10 on 4th March.

Singles at Flamborough on 3rd and 16th March with 20 there on 21st December.

Three present at Blacktoft Sands from 1st to 16th March and a single there on 25th May; these records constitute the first reports of this race at Blacktoft.

#### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

A single bird at Ringstone Edge Res. from 9th to 15th August.

Published with the escape proviso.

#### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Breeding along the Low Derwent was low with six pairs present in April; success not being reported though 40 juveniles were at Wheldrake Ings on 18th June and 33 on 21st.

Along the Humber at Cherry Cobb at Least 221 young were reported in June and early July with the first young being reported on 8th June. No other breeding reports from the estuary except at Blacktoft where 15 pairs nested producing three broods totalling 22 young.

Seven pairs at Tophill Low Res. on 8th May though only one pair bred raising seven young. Two pairs bred in the Ribble Valley with only one producing young; two pairs at Ripley with five young; five young at Masham whilst during the breeding season birds were present at Fairburn; Farnham; Staveley and Harrogate S.F. Thus there is a slow continuation of the spread in V.C. 64.

V.C. 65 had birds breeding at Nosterfield with six young; Bolton-on-Swale with two pairs hatching 15 young though none survived; one pair with 6 young fledged at Catterick; single pair with 14 young at Scorton Quarry where none survived and five young surviving out of eight at Masham G.P.

Cherry Cobb Sands recorded lower counts during the latter part of the year with maxima of 375 in September falling to 257 in October thence below 100 to the end of the year: the only count of over 1000 was on 6th April when 1150 were present. No moult migration was noted this year though a moulting flock was again present with 24+ on 13th July; 260 on 24th July and 167+ on 24th August. At Sunk Island a total of 161 left high to the east on the evening of 2nd August. Maximum counts at this site being 230 on 12th August and 250 on 13th September. Further up the Humber 300 were present at Whitton Sands on 17th March with 500 on 26th April falling to 200 or less throughout June and July thereafter increasing to 300 on 13th September and 550 on 20th.

Numbers at Spurn were not outstanding with highest count of 208 on the Humber on 14th March with 182 on 31st July. Southerly passage offshore saw 337 on 13th November with 153 the following day and 119 on 9th December. 120 north off Hornsea with a further 30 on the sea on 2nd November, the highest count at that location.

The highest count at Blacktoft Sands came in spring with 175 on 30th April whilst 106 flew west there on 10th January during cold weather; 104 west on 30th August with 51 in the same direction on 13th September and 89 on 1st November.

Small numbers reported inland in V.C. 63 from some 20 locations, usually one to three birds being involved though 18 at Angler's Lake on 2nd January; 23 at Blackmoorfoot on 18th January; 11 at Pugney's on 18th April and 29 to the west at Angler's on 13th July.

One to seven birds at 15 locations in V.C. 64 with 16 at Fewston Res. on 18th January; 50 at Fairburn Ings on 16th March; 12 during mid April and 18 on 20th May.

### **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A single male was present at Tophill Low Res. on 11th; 13th and 20th September. A pair in the Farnham area during spring and on 29th November, single males at Eccup Res. on 9th and 28th December and at Masham on 15th December. A single male on the Lower Wharfe on 24th April.

### **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Bred at Grimwith Res. with 27 ducklings being present on 25th June and 55 adults/immatures there on 5th August: single pair with one young at Summerlodge Tarn on 25th June.

The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area of V.C. 61 held high numbers during both winters with monthly maxima of 3000 in January; 5835 in February; 6500 in March; 1500 in April; 300 in October; 1200 during November and 4130 in December. Birds were present in this area during the summer months with up to eight in June and ten in July though no reports of breeding received. Elsewhere in V.C. 61, Hornsea Mere had maxima of 440 on 30th January; 455 on 8th February; 405 on 1st March and 261 on 22nd December. Tophill Low Res. had higher counts with 770 on 1st January; 541 on 17th and up to 700 during the latter days of the month; 530 on 9th February; 925 on 7th March though many days during this month saw less than 200 birds present. Relatively scarce during the latter months of the year until 212 on 22nd November and then between 500 and 700 during the last ten days of December.

On the Humber 120 at Spurn on 19th January was the highest count there whilst further upstream 110 were at Sunk Island on 26th January and at Cherry Cobb 370 on 5th January with 400 on 2nd February; 247 on 16th March thereafter smaller numbers with the last being on 11th May apart from six on 26th June. The next there were nine on 24th August with varying numbers to the end of the year with peak of 158 on 7th December.

Coastal passage was reported from Spurn with 217 to the south on 13th November and 252 the following day; 286 south on 8th December. Westerly movement along the Humber was reported from Sunk Island with 139 on 13th September; 73 on 5th October; 259 on 2nd November with 97 on 15th November when 60 also flew east.

Good numbers at Blacktoft Sands with monthly maxima of 500 in January; 1310 on 19th February and 1050 on 4th March; smaller numbers during the latter months with 103 present on 6th December. Elsewhere in V.C. 63, 178 at Angler's on 12th January with 100 there on 7th February. 75 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 26th January and 133 there on 27th December; 77 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th March.

450+ were reported from the Ribble Valley on 22nd January otherwise the only other location to hold more than 100 in V.C. 64 during the early months was Eccup Res. with between 90 and 110 until March with a peak record of 178 on 2nd February. In Autumn 108 at Fairburn Ings in October and December with 113 during November.

Bolton-on-Swale G.P. continues to grow in importance with new record maxima of 1450 on 11th January and a peak of 1400 during spring passage decreasing to 121 by 20th April; in autumn from 100 on 19th September numbers increased to 750 by the end of the year. 300 were at Thornton Steward Res. on 16th January with 186 there on 30th December.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana*

A single male present at Blacktoft Sands from 10th March until 5th April (AG *et al*). Accepted by the *British Birds* Records Committee.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Confirmed breeding took place at Tophill Low Res. with one pair rearing 10 young; at Broomfleet Ponds; one pair with several young; Fairburn Ings; three pairs with nine young and Potteric Carr, three pairs throughout the summer though only one pair bred.

Birds were present on the Lower Derwent Ings, Hornsea Mere and Blacktoft Sands during the summer months though not proven as breeding.

Hornsea Mere had the highest counts with 212 on 29th November as the peak following 164 on 21st September. Fairburn Ings had 12 on 28th March and 26th April, 18 were present on 6th September thereafter numbers increased to 106 on 24 October falling to 74 on 17th November and 32 on 6th December. Tophill Low Res. was the only other location to hold large numbers with 28 present during most of January; 26 on 9th February. Between 40 and 69 present during the latter half of September; 30 on 9th October thereafter less than ten though an isolated peak of 53 on 31st December.

Ten to 12 present at Mickletown Ings during October and 20 at Swillington Park on 27th December whilst Potteric Carr held 11 during January and 10 on 19th April with up to 15 in November and December.

Ten on the Lower Derwent Ings on 23rd March with 11 there on 7th June and ten on 23rd July. Eight at Scampston Lake on 16th March, a similar number at Broomfleet Ponds on 22nd April with five at Flamborough on 2nd June.

In V.C. 65, where this species is rare, single birds were reported from Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 4th January; from 16th to 21st July and from 1st to 12th September whilst a single bird was at Leighton Res. on 8th March.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

No breeding reports received from V.C. 61 or V.C. 62. Eight pairs were reported breeding in V.C. 63 (six locations) rearing a total of 27 young whilst a further nine locations held birds during the breeding season. In V.C. 64 breeding occurred at four sites and at a single site in V.C. 65.

No records were received from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, one of the strongholds of this species in V.C. 61 though good numbers were recorded on the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas with up to 800 during January; 2573 in February; 2410 during March and 800 in April; 236 in September; 680 in October; a very low 46 in November and 1120 during December. Low numbers were reported from Hornsea Mere with 390 on 20th January and 200 on 29th November. Tophill Low Res. had low numbers during the early months with 260 on 30th January; 150 on 11th February; 186 on 16th March and 41 on 11th April, numbers there during the latter months were slightly higher than last year with 360 on 24th August; 523 on 11th September; 860 on 13th and 806 on 19th September falling to 555 on 2nd October thereafter 400 on 19th October; 276 on 22nd November and then less than 200 to the end of the year.

Elsewhere in V.C. 61 Whitton Sands held 300 on 20th September with Cherry Cobb having few birds during the early part of the year with no more than 45 being reported; the same location had 190 on 14th September with 167 the following week and 155 on 6th December.

The highest counts in V.C. 63 were from Blacktoft Sands with between 100 and 125 during the first four months of the year; 360 reported during September increasing throughout October to 710 on 20th thence up to 480 in November and 270 in December. Potteric Carr recorded 400 on 11th January with 300 at Thorpe Marsh on 26th; c600 at Potteric Carr on 15th February thereafter numbers gradually decreased. Autumn numbers were slightly lower with 240 at Potteric Carr on 24th September; c200 present at Thorpe Marsh during November and December with 230 at Old Denaby on 4th December: Nine other locations reported between 50 and 150 during either or both winters.

Highest counts in V.C. 64 were 274 at Fairburn Ings on 26th January with 331 during mid September; 300 at Gouthwaite Res. in September remaining at that level until the end of the year with a peak of 372 during October. 160 at Healaugh Ponds on 9th November.

305 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 23rd January and 300 there on 14th December; 149 at Great Langton on 23rd November.

Coastal passage was reported from several regularly watched locations with 104 off Hornsea on 23rd August, 82 at Flamborough the following day, 130 off Hornsea on 25th and 70 on 30th when 148 were counted at Flamborough. During this month a maximum count of 234 was reported at Filey. 60 flew north off Hornsea on 2nd November with 101 at Flamborough on 21st December. At Spurn Point 609 flew south on 13th November and 839 on 8th December. Westerly passage along the Humber was reported from Sunk Island where 132 were reported on 25th August with 88 on 13th September and 25 on 14th December.

A single individual of the North American race *A.c. carolinensis* known colloquially as Green-winged Teal was reported from Swinemoor near Beverley from 11th to 13th March (PMS). Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

No records received from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area held the highest numbers with 500 during January increasing to a monthly maximum of 5240 in February; 4000 in March thence a rapid decrease to 400 by the end of the month. Few were reported during the period April to August though 400 were recorded during the latter month, increased to 800 in September; 1000 in October; 1150 during November thence decrease again to 450 during December.

Hornsea Mere had far fewer birds than last year with a maximum count of 1900 on 6th December. Tophill Low Res. conversely had more birds with 1200 on 20th January; 1450 on 25th February; 1050 on 24th August; 1450 on 14th and 1403 on 21st September; 1300 on 9th October; 1200 in late November and 1640 on 7th December. The only other location to report more than 1000 birds in V.C. 61 was Cherry Cobb with maximum monthly counts of 1502 in January; 1080 in September; 1165 in October; 1030 in November and 2450 in December. 953 were at Sunk Island on 2nd November otherwise no other location had more than 500.

V.C. 62 had few birds with 789 at Castle Howard in September being the highest number reported.

The only location in V.C. 63 to report more than 1000 was Blacktoft where this figure was reached in August and the maximum count of the year, 1550 was noted on 7th September. Other locations holding large numbers were Poteric Carr with 587 on 5th January; 600 there on 15th February and up to 500 during the last three months of the year: Thorpe Marsh held 425 birds on 15th February with a similar number at the year's end. 606 at Pugney's on 22nd February was the highest count from that site whilst some 13 other locations reported between 150 and 400 birds during the year.

1905 at Fairburn Ings on 26th January was the highest count from that water with 1191 there on 17th February; 1268 at Eccup on 26th January with 1112 on 12th October. Many other waters held between 200 and 700 in one or both winter periods.

In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale G.P. held the highest numbers with 1015 on 26th January and 1375 on 6th October whilst 900 to 1100 were present during November and December. Leighton Res. had 1100 on 25th January and 932 on 29th November; Thornton Steward Res. 623 on 12th January and 589 on 28th December; 500+ roost in the Leyburn area during September.

Few comments received on breeding numbers though V.C. 64 reported numbers slightly down and late in some areas.

**Black Duck** *Anas rubripes*

A single male was recorded at Broomfleet Ponds on 1st September (TAE). The second county record.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area had lower numbers than usual with monthly maxima of 30 in January; 32 in February; 26 during March and 10 in April with the last bird reported on 7th May. The first of the autumn/winter were late with four on 3rd November and then up to ten during December.

The other location which normally holds good numbers, the lower Humber estuary had 45 at Cherry Cobb on 5th January with 32 on 9th February; 22 on 23rd March and eight on 13th April; none were reported during the summer months with the first of the autumn being 17 on 21st September whilst nearby at Sunk Island the first was a single bird on 25th August with 16 on 6th September. 17 flew west at Sunk Island on 5th October while at Cherry Cobb up to 18 were reported during that month; 28 west at Sunk Island on 2nd November, up to 34 at Cherry Cobb during the month and a maximum of 27 during December.

Small numbers at Hornsea Mere with a maximum of four during the early months of the year and eight on 9th September, this the highest count of the year. Tophill Low Res. had slightly higher counts with six on 10th March and four on 15th. No more there until odd single birds during July after which two to four during August with six on 24th and eight on 30th. Six to eight throughout most of September with ten on 5th; 10th and 21st, after which two to six during October and up to four on three days in November.

Along the coast seven at Flamborough on 13th November; five at Filey on 21st December; seven at Hornsea on 7th September; 27 to south at Spurn Point on 27th October; 26 south on 13th November and eight off the sea there on 15th November; ten at Broomfleet Ponds on 14th October with eight west at Whitton Sands on 4th September and 16 on 15th.

One to three birds also reported from Easington Lagoons; Hunmanby Mere; Hull Docks and Swinemoor.

In V.C. 63, Blacktoft Sands held the most birds with one to four on six days to 26th April then none till 13th August after which birds were regular to early October with a peak of 27 on 6th September. Scarcer and fewer from October to end of year. Westerly passage was noted on several occasions with 33 on 5th October and six on 2nd November. Elsewhere in the V.C. one to two birds recorded from ten sites during the early months and similar numbers at seven locations during the latter months of the year. Higher numbers being reported from Redmires Res. with seven on 7th September; Ingbirchworth Res. with five on 5th October and nine flying east on 23rd December; six at Wath Ings on 10th September.

Stated as a poor year for this species in V.C. 64 with only Fairburn Ings having birds on a regular basis where up to three were recorded during the early months and again from September to year's end with maxima of eight on 19th September: 12 at Eccup Res. on 12th September. Elsewhere one to three reported from 11 other locations, mainly during the latter months of the year.

Up to two at Bolton-on-Swale during January and seven during September with one to three during the last three months. Seven at Thornton Steward Res. on 16th November.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

A good year with three pairs breeding and several other possible breeding attempts.

At Broomfleet Ponds a single female was seen with four half grown young on 7th June (TAE): pair plus four young at Old Denaby in August, and a female with well grown young at Broomhill during August.

It is considered that breeding may have taken place at Fairburn Ings where a family party of six was reported on 31st July, and from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area where it is thought that five pairs attempted to breed.

The first reported were four at Old Denaby on 5th April with two there on 10th and 12th whilst a pair was at Fairburn Ings on 13th remaining there until 11th May. Two at Denaby Ings on 15th April; the first reported from the Lower Derwent being on 19th April. Birds were reported during May from Tophill Low Res. and Blacktoft Sands as well as the breeding areas.

Autumn saw more widespread reports with birds at Flamborough; Kilnsea; Hornsea; Sandall Carr; Sprotbrough Flash; Potteric Carr; Staveley; Ripley; Blackmoorfoot Res. Six at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd September and five on 3rd with four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th August being the highest numbers reported. Two to the south over the sea at Hornsea on 7th August and a single north there on 19th August being the only coastal passage reported.

### **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Bred at Pulfin Bog, female with seven young; Broomfleet Ponds, female with six young; Tophill Low Res., one brood of nine; Blacktoft Sands, two broods of four and five; Gouthwaite Res., seven young; Mickletown Ings, five young. Proven breeding at Potteric Carr, Old Denaby, Sprotbrough Flash and the Ribble Valley though no feedback received. No comments on breeding received from the Lower Derwent though between 20 and 35 birds present during May and June; single female in distraction display observed at Skipwith Common on 21st May.

Numbers at all locations were higher during the autumn with Fairburn Ings, Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere reporting the highest counts: Fairburn had 40+ on 11th January with 40 on 17th March; 177 on 19th September; 153 on 17th October and 104 on 16th November. Tophill Low Res. had between 30 and 50 during the first three months with 53 on 27th January; up to 70 during late February and 70 on 16th March. Numbers decreased throughout the summer to about 20 then increasing to 72 in early August to 100 to 120 later in the month thence peaks of 151 on 4th September; 100 on 16th and 120 on 24th with 118 on 9th October. Few at Hornsea Mere in the early part of the year, 82 on 29th November being the highest count of the year with 69 on 22nd December. A very high isolated peak of 150 at Potteric Carr on 10th October whereas the usual number present being in the low double figures.

Other counts of more than 20 birds were 37 at Pugney's on 6th October; 36 at Sprotbrough Flash on 19th November; 30 at Old Denaby on 18th October; 26 at Blacktoft on 18th November; 22 at Broomhill on 30th August; 23 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th November and 21 at Castle Howard on 26th September.

Coastal passage light with 18 south at Hornsea on 23rd August; ten at Flamborough on 7th August and six at Spurn on 31st July.

### **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

A single female at Fairburn Ings on 31st May and 1st June and again from 7th September to 7th October (SPD:TDC). Single female at Wheldrake Ings on 8th July (GO). Single at Broomfleet Ponds on 12th September (TAE).

Single female at Thornton Steward Res. from 16th November to the end of the year was also reported from Masham G.P. on 23rd November and 10th December. A different female at Thornton Steward Res. on 28th and 29th November was also reported from Bolton-on-Swale on 12th and 14th December before reappearing at Thornton Steward on 17th remaining until 22nd.

A male at Carlton Marsh on 24th April (KB:JWS).

A single male at Conistone Cold on 16th November (JJKV) with a male at Glasshouses on 7th and 25th December (PJC).

The male hybrid that appeared at Tophill Low Res. in 1984 and was present occasionally in 1985 was also present on four days between 9th and 25th February.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Bred at Tophill Low Res.; two pairs with nine and two young; Broomfleet Ponds, one pair with one young; Blacktoft Sands, six pairs, twenty young – a steady increase here; Carcliffe Flash, one pair; Horbury, one pair – a new location; Potteric Carr, three pairs; Swillington Ings, one pair with four young; Mickletown Ings, one pair, four young and Fairburn Ings, six pairs with 14 young. Again no breeding reported from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas where winter numbers were reported as very low with 70 at Wheldrake Ings on 11th January; 150 at Bank Island on 7th February, 390 on the Lower Derwent on 16th March, 70 at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd December and 100 there on 30th. Low counts at both Hornsea Mere and Tophill Low Res. with below 100 at the former until October with the maxima being 404 on 18th December and 408 on 22nd. At Tophill Low Res. monthly maxima were 106 on 27th January; 157 on 16th February 115 on 16th March; 78 on 5th October; 46 on 22nd November and 70 on 21st December. 80 at Broomfleet Ponds on 18th November the only other respectable count in V.C. 61.

Pugney's G.P. held the highest numbers in V.C. 63 with 352 on 26th January, 494 on 16th February and 250 on 11th October whilst other locations holding more than 100 birds were Winterset Res. with 276 on 28th September; Rother Valley Country Park with 200 on 2nd and 28th February; Thrybergh Res. with up to 145 during January; 183 on 7th February and 156 during March; 162 at Catcliffe Flash on 16th March. Numbers during the latter months of the year were generally lower.

Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, held the highest numbers with up to 211 during January; 308 during February; 300 in March; 227 during August; 230 in September, 450 in November and 395 during December. Only Swillington Ings with 100 on 14th March and Farnham, 150 during October and 109 in November, were the only other locations in this V.C. with more than 100 though 56 at Conistone Cold on 14th December was a very high count for that water.

Bolton-on-Swale G.P. was the only location in V.C. 65 which held over 100 birds during the course of the year with maxima of 115 on 11th January, 129 on 19th September and 125 on 15th November.

Coastal passage was reported from the usual watchpoints with 29 off Flamborough on 5th October, 19 there on 13th; 17 off Hornsea on 26th October; 28 to the south off Filey on 13th November when 35 flew south at Spurn, 35 off Spurn on 14th with 34 at Flamborough on 15th when 30 were at Spurn and 16 north there on 17th.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

The drake at Tophill Low Res. from 1985 was last seen on 23rd March (IF:TR *et al*) but did not return to winter there though what is assumed to be the same individual was recorded at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 4th October (BP:JCW *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

A male was at Gallaber on 20th and 24th April (BS) whilst another male was at Allerton Bywater from 11th to at least 31st August (BCF:SPS:EK *et al*) and at nearby Fairburn Ings on 13th September (JFS:TDC *et al*).

Under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Male at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 27th May to 1st June (RT).

Under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

A male reported from Allerton Bywater from 10th August to 22nd and further dates to 18th September (JAS:SPS:JM *et al*) was assumed to be the bird reported from Fairburn Ings, only a few miles away, on 24th August and regularly between 2nd and 21st September (CW:TDC *et al*).

### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Reported as breeding from 38 locations though no comments were received from the York area. V.C. 64 recorded a better breeding season than 1985 with some 230 young hatched though not all fledged due to predation by Pike whilst at Tophill Low Res. a Stoat was observed to take six young in a few minutes.

12 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, down on 1985 with 13 at Bolton-on-Swale, an increase there. With the majority of the breeding records coming from the north and west, eight pairs at Broomfleet Ponds in V.C. 61 was a welcome increase.

1020 were counted at Tophill Low Res. on 1st January being a high count for that water with 749 still present on 20th, 520 on 16th February being the highest number during that month with 300 on 7th March and 227 on 16th. Up to 160 were present during the summer months with an increase to over 300 by late July and thence 250 to 300 throughout October and November again increasing to 420 on 9th and 630 on 28th December.

Hornsea Mere had lower numbers with 385 on 12th April; 525 the following day and 385 again on 19th April (different observers); 260 still present on 3rd May. Numbers higher towards the end of the year with 510 on 12th September and 529 on 4th November. Smaller numbers, under 50, elsewhere in V.C. 61.

In V.C. 63 at least 30 locations had between 20 and 100 birds at some time during the year with higher counts at Pugney's G.P. of 448 on 5th January; 523 on 23rd February and 505 on 4th March though considerable fluctuation occurred between these peaks. 217 were there on 5th October and 278 on 14th December. 178 at Winterset Res. on 1st January with 141 on 4th April; 443 on 28th September and 320 on 5th November. 185 at Thrybergh Res. on 10th January with 198 at Angler's on 7th and 116 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 26th.

Fairburn Ings, as usual, held the largest numbers in V.C. 64 with 406 on 17th February; 304 during August; up to 320 in September increasing to 445 during November and 433 in December: 200 were reported from Farnham during January whilst 161 at Eccup Res. on 1st October was the only other location to report more than 150.

Bolton-on-Swale G.P. in V.C. 65 had 290 on 17th August with no other waters holding large numbers.

An additional late record for 1985 concerns a second year female found dead at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd January which had been ringed on 28th May 1983 in Latvia, USSR, some 1755 kms north east.

### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

At Spurn Point birds were reported daily from the Humber shore from 11th February to 6th April. 79 were reported on 11th February with up to 90 during the remainder of that month whilst some 75 were present through the first half of March and up to 29 during the latter part of the month. Smaller numbers occasionally into mid April with seven on 12th and 14th. Single on the sea on 14th May with three south the following day. Few records during the latter months of the year with six south on 18th October and eight south on 1st November.

At other coastal locations; 18 at Flamborough on 23rd February; one to three south off Hornsea on several days between 7th July and 4th October whilst Barmston reported six on the sea there on 22nd February and five on 15th November. 13 at Easington Lagoons/Beacon Lane Ponds on 23rd February with 15 on 13th March; 13 on 15th March decreasing to nine on 23rd, six on 28th with four on 26th April; 30th April and 3rd May.

Four were recorded on the Humber at Paull on 2nd March with six flying west at Cherry Cobb on 23rd. Further upstream, six at Hull on 7th February with 12 west there on 8th.

One to two females at Tophill Low Res. from 1985 into the present year remaining until 18th March with a single bird from 19th April to 4th May. Single male from 17th to 20th May and again on 7th June with single females on 31st August; 19th and 28th October; 28th November and 6th-7th December.

Single at Blacktoft on 24th October.

Away from either the coast or the estuary; two birds at Wheldrake Ings or Bank Island from 12th to 15th March, single female at Castle Howard on 13th August and one from 25th October to 15th November. Three at Pugney's on 8th January and 11th February with single birds there on 5th January; 15th to 27th February; 5th March to 21st April. Two at Thrybergh on 13th and 20th May. Single birds were also reported in V.C. 63 from the following waters; Catcliffe Flash/Rother Valley Country Park: Methley G.P.: Redmires Res.: Bretton Park: Ingbirchworth Res.: Blackmoorfoot Res.: Winterset Res.

V.C. 64 reported one to two birds from eight locations during the early months of the year to the last at Barden Fish Farm on 12th April and 10 records of one to two birds from four locations from 17th September to the end of the year.

Two at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th September with single birds at Brompton-on-Swale on 24th April and Leighton Res. on 23rd November.

### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Spurn Point reported smaller numbers than recent years with far fewer occurrences. This trend was reflected at other locations along the coast. The highest count at Spurn being 12 between 4th and 6th May excepting a southerly passage there on 8th November when 27 were recorded. Flamborough only reported double figures on two days with 14 on 5th November and 30 on 15th whilst five north off Hornsea on 11th August was the highest count there. The wintering flock at Filey was generally in the region of ten birds though 30 were present on 12th January and 20 on 26th. 51 were reported on one day in April (date not reported) and consisted of birds passing through as did 36 to the north on 22nd December; the only high count in the latter months.

Along the Humber, a single was reported from Sunk Island on 26th April with a male at Hull on 6th February whilst further inland a male flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 12th April.

The only record from fresh water concerned a freshly dead bird found at Knotford Nook on 6th December.

### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One to two birds at several locations with four at Filey on one day and 10 at Flamborough as the highest counts received.

Spurn Point had single birds on only four days during the year; three to the north off Hornsea on 2nd November when 10 were recorded at Flamborough and four north off Filey; two at Flamborough on 21st February with two there again on 26th October. A single bird in Filey Bay from 15th January was joined by a second bird from late March and a third bird on 17th April. Two at Barmston on 16th November.

One to two birds regularly in the Scarborough area during January and February with three at Saltwick Nab on 23rd March.

A single male seen flying east off Hull Docks on 2nd March was also seen later that day flying east at Paull whilst a single male flew east at the latter location on the unusual date of 6th July.

A single reported at Hornsea Mere on 16th November was the only record received from a fresh water location.

### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A very large flock assembled in Filey South Bay during the early months of the year attaining a maximum during February of some 1400 birds. Further south the wintering flock off Fraisthorpe/Barmston numbered 185 on 11th January; 310 on 22nd February; 182 on 15th November with between 100 and 150 during the latter weeks of the year.

Coastal passage was noted from all locations with 202 off Flamborough on 9th February; 85 there on 30th May on which date 100 were reported from Spurn Point. 103 at Flamborough on 20th June; 459 on 12th July with 69 north off Hornsea on that day; 302 at Flamborough the following day, 176 on 15th and 97 on 20th whilst at Spurn

Point 132 were counted on 31st. 161 at Flamborough on 4th August with 103 at Hornsea on 6th and 124 there on 7th; 427 at Flamborough on 11th. No records of over 100 at either Flamborough or Hornsea during the next two months but Spurn recorded 135 on 25th September and 108 on 5th October. 73 off Flamborough on 1st November when Spurn recorded 89 with 121 at Flamborough the following day, 176 north at Hornsea and 158 off Spurn. Thereafter small numbers with the exception of 151 at Flamborough on 21st December.

Reported along the Humber quite frequently with 23 off Cherry Cobb on 11th May; 15 to the east at Paull on 12th July; 54 west then back to the east at Stone Creek on 24th August; c50 west off Sunk Island on 27th September with 66 west the following day and 10 west there on 14th December whilst 22 flew west past Hull Docks on 17th.

Five birds at Hornsea Mere on 10th and 12th April, single at Ross Carrs from 22nd to 26th April.

Reported from eight locations in V.C. 63 generally one to three birds being involved with the exceptions of 19 at Pugney's on 2nd April and 19 which flew into Angler's Lake, Winterset from the northeast departing to the west on 11th August.

Recorded as a poor year in V.C. 64 with three at Eccup on 31st March, a single there on 19th August; 16 at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th August and a single at Fairburn Ings on 18th and 29th November.

A single male at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 11th August was the only record from V.C. 65.

### **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

15 north at Staithes on 25th October (JLL:MJH) being by far the largest party reported.

One to two birds reported from all the usual coastal watch points with five off Flamborough on 25th October on which date seven were reported from Filey. Six at Flamborough on 15th November with two at Hornsea and four at Barmston on the same day. Eight south off Filey on 3rd December with five on the sea at Barmston on 29th December and nine there on 31st (SML:PMS:RL).

Spurn Point reported between one and five birds on seven days in October and similar numbers during November on five days.

A single bird on a field at Cherry Cobb on 28th November was unusual (MC) whilst the only inland record involved an immature male at Tophill Low Res. on 6th May (PMS).

### **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Hornsea Mere, as usual, held the largest numbers with spring peak in April of 363 on 10th; 345 on 12th and 354 on 19th thereafter a very rapid decline to 21 on 26th (SML:GRB:IJP). Smaller counts at Tophill Low Res. where 30 to 40 were present during January with 55 on 9th as monthly maximum; 71 on 14th February; 67 on 3rd March and 78 on 16th. Numbers then decreased to 47 on 5th April to eight on 29th; with the same number still present on 4th May and two to three birds present throughout the summer.

Angler's Res. at Winterset had 35 on 4th January; 36 on 10th February with 40 on 5th April and the last on 1st May; Pugney's had slightly more birds with 54 on 21st February; 49 on 4th March.

Fairburn Ings held up to 40 during the first two months of the year increasing to a peak of 81 in March and 79 in April: Gouthwaite Res. had 44 in January as the highest count of the early months decreasing to 25 in March whilst Eccup Res. had over 20 throughout the first three months and 26 at Knotford Nook on 14th February. Many other waters in V.C. 64 held up to 12 during the first three months of the year.

Bolton-on-Swale G.P. had 63 as the highest spring count on 9th March with Nosterfield having 32 during the same period; no other location in V.C. 65 reporting double figure counts.

48 along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area in March was the maximum for that area.

Small numbers were at Easington Lagoons during February with 23 on 22nd as the maxima whilst 156 on the Humber off Hull Docks on 2nd March was an unusual number for that location.

Several waters had birds during the summer months apart from Tophill Low Res. already mentioned; a single immature male at Broomfleet Ponds on 6th June; an eclipse male at Eccup Res. on 6th, 20th, 21st June and from 30th June to 5th July. A single at Nosterfield during June; a male at Ringstone Edge Res. to 11th June and an immature male at Blackmoorfoot Res. all summer visited Deer Hill Res. on many occasions.

Single birds were reported during August from Hornsea Mere on 23rd and 24th; from Ringstone Edge Res., a female on 23rd and 28th and from the Ribble Valley on 29th.

Birds generally arrived during the second week of October with numbers building up to the end of the year. 40 at Hornsea Mere on 30th October had increased to 78 on 29th November though 173 were counted at that water on 16th November, an isolated high count. 20 were present at Tophill Low Res. on 1st November increasing to 44 by 28th then little change until 64 at the end of the year. 43 at Angler's Res. on 31st December; 31 at Wintersett Res. on 19th December; 17 at Pugney's on 31st being the highest counts in V.C. 63 during the latter months excepting the movement reported on 2nd November.

Numbers at Fairburn Ings had reached 20 during November increasing to 23 during December with peaks of 22 at Eccup Res. and 25 at Gouthwaite Res. during the same month.

Noticeable coastal passage was observed on 2nd November being reflected inland on this day and the 3rd. 120 flew north off Hornsea and 111 in the same direction at Filey on the 2nd though Spurn Point only reported 12 birds and Flamborough 19, a further indication from the latter location that waterfowl frequently cross the head rather than fly round. 151 flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd whilst inland 16 appeared briefly at Redmires Res., 67 at Eccup Res., 16 at Leighton Res. and 10 at Farnham with 17 at Malham Tarn the following day, an unusually high count for this water.

82 were counted in Bridlington Bay on 4th, again a high count for that area, with 21 west at Blacktoft on that day and 17 west there on 21st December.

### **Smew** *Mergus albellus*

A good year by normal standards with four at Broomfleet Ponds on 7th January, (three males) increasing to five the following day (four males); six on 10th and 11th though only two males present; nine on 31st January with four males, increasing to ten on 5th February (five males); 13 (six males) on 13th with 14 (seven males) on 16th thereafter decreasing to 11 (six males) on 22nd February; ten on 11th March with a similar number on 12th though males had decreased from five to four. Two (one male) present on 20th March with a single *redhead* on 2nd April (TAE).

Across the river at Blacktoft a single bird on 12th and 13th January increasing to five on 14th thence three on 15th; three on 19th and 22nd with five again on 23rd. During February four were reported on 1st with three on 2nd and 3rd and a single on the 4th. Four present on 4th March with eight the following day and at least five on 6th and 7th; nine on 8th then up to five for most of the month though reduced to a single bird at the end of the month remaining until 18th April. No doubt some birds were commuting between these two locations (AG *et al.*).

Hornsea Mere recorded a single male on 26th January with a *redhead* there on 23rd and 24th February; a pair on 8th March with two pairs on the following day (IJP).

Tophill Low Res. had three on 26th January with single birds on 1st February and 5th March – all relating to *redheads*.

Two *redheads* at Easington/Beacon Lane Ponds on 11th February with a single bird on 1st March; two on 4th, four on 5th decreasing to single birds on 13th and 15th.

A single male at Ingbyworth Res. until 3rd May with a *redhead* at Pugney's from 18th to 25th February. Single *redhead* at Wheldrake Ings on 12th January; 24th January

and 6th February with two males and a *redhead* on the River Ouse at Poppleton on 23rd February (TED:DA *et al*).

The *redhead* at Knotford Nook first recorded 1985 remained until 17th March occasionally visiting the River Wharfe near Ben Rhydding; Manor Park and Eccup Res. whilst another female was at Fairburn Ings from 28th February to 2nd March and at Swillington Ings on 9th March.

Single *redhead* at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 7th to 17th March.

Two males on the River Idle at Mission on 6th March (RJS).

Fewer birds during the latter part of the year with a single *redhead* at Tophill Low Res. from 7th to 9th November and another on 15th (PWI MC *et al*); three (one male) to the west at Broomfleet on 18th November (TAE) with two birds (one male) at Broomfleet Ponds on 27th December. Five were present at Blacktoft Sands on 24th October with a single there on 28th, singles on 2nd, 21st; 22nd and 24th November and 1st and 6th December.

A single male in the Rother Valley Country Park from 24th to 31st December. A single bird present at Ingbirchworth Res. from 16th November to the end of the year after briefly calling at Scout Dyke Res. first.

Single females were at Malham Tarn on 2nd and 3rd November; Eccup Res. on 20th November; Harewood Park on 14th December; Fairburn Ings from 23rd to 26th December and Knotford Nook from 26th December to end of year. Some of these records may refer to the same bird.

### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

A pair bred at Redmires Res. hatching seven young though none fledged. This is a new breeding site for this species.

Occurred regularly along the coast with between one and five birds being involved though eight at Cornelian Bay on 16th February and six there on 2nd March. Six were at Spurn Point on 27th April with eight flying south there on 13th November and seven to the north on 2nd November when 33 were reported off Flamborough and 19 to the north off Filey whilst at Hornsea 16 were recorded also flying north. Three were also reported on this date at Sunk Island flying west; also at this location three were reported passing west on 4th and 5th October, two west at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd May and 27th October.

Inland six were reported over Lindley Wood Res. on 18th October with three at Idle Stop on 21st February and four at Wroot on 8th March. Otherwise a pair on the River Ribble from 28th March to 2nd June with two at Eccup on 30th January; two at Castle Howard on 3rd May; two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th October and two at Leighton Res. on 2nd November. Single birds were reported from a further 12 sites in what was a relatively poor year for this species.

### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Continues to slowly extend its range as a breeding species with six pairs along the River Ribble in the Settle area; quite widespread along the Ure between High Batts Nature Reserve and Ripon with smaller numbers along both the Wharfe and Swale though there is concern that birds are being persecuted by fishing interests in some locations.

Few were reported from V.C. 61 with the largest counts coming from the Derwent Valley where 20 were present at Wheldrake Ings on 13th March and 18 there on 23rd. 13 at Whitton Sands on 8th February with 17 there on 17th March, 15 on 22nd decreasing to six by 19th April. No doubt some of these birds were also reported across the river at Blacktoft Sands where 13 were reported on 24th January with 15 on 23rd February, 18 on 1st March and a similar number on 4th April. Smaller counts there during the latter months of the year though westerly passage was recorded with 17 on 5th October; 14 on 26th October and nine on 2nd November.

Inland in V.C. 63 considered to be more numerous than ten to 15 years ago and also to be wintering on more waters with up to 10 at Winterset Res. during February and

16 there during March as the largest gatherings though between one and five birds were recorded from 17 locations during both winters.

Eccup Res. held the largest numbers in V.C. 64 with maximum counts during the first three months of the year of 95 on 25th January; 91 on 22nd February and 93 on 1st March. Elsewhere up to 64 at Hay-a-Park during January with 56 during February and 48 in March. 31 at Fairburn Ings during March was the highest count there whilst 33 were reported from Knotford Nook on 8th February and 50 at Lindley Moor Res. on 12th January. Numbers during the latter months of the year were lower with 65 at Eccup Res. on 29th December and up to 40 at Bishop Monkton during that month as the highest counts reported.

The largest concentrations were from V.C. 65 with 141 at Leighton Res. on 5th January (56 males) and 133 at the same location on 28th December.

### **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Continues to increase as a breeding species with definite proof from 13 locations and suspected to have bred at a further five.

Still quite scarce in V.C. 61 with one to three at Tophill Low Res. during March and the same number in August. Two pairs at Wheldrake Ings from late April to mid May whilst Hornsea Mere reported one to two birds during April, May and then September through to November. Two, reported flying north at Spurn Point on 23rd October constituted only the third record for that location.

Reported from ten waters in V.C. 63 during both winters with up to four birds being involved but up to six at Angler's Lake during early January. Stated to be scarce in V.C. 64 during the winter with only a single bird at Fairburn Ings on 1st January, two at Eccup on 27th and a pair at Fairburn during February. After two at Harewood Park on 29th November the only record in this V.C. was of a single bird at Eccup on 30th December.

Autumn maxima were 16 at Harewood Park on 5th October and between 10 and 14 at Mickletown Ings during September.

### **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

As with 1985 birds were reported from one locality during the course of the summer and thus it is possible that breeding may have taken place.

Along the coast single birds were reported from Flamborough on 10th May (AMA:PAL): 11th May (ASB,RH,VAL): 21st May (PAL) and 28th May (BA). A single bird seen at Broomfleet Ponds on 7th June (TAE), one flying north over Allerthorpe Common on the previous day (DW).

Single over Thorne Moors on 29th May, singles at Wilsic on 9th August (KRi), near Winterset Res. on 19th August (GJS:SD) and one low over Blacktoft on 8th September (AG).

Single at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th August (PJC).

Birds which could have been either this species or Common Buzzard were reported from Bempton on 25th May (per RSPB) and from Buckton the following day (PMS).

### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

A single bird in the Bransdale/Fadmoor area on 27th March (PJP) with single birds at Rudland Rigg (JM) and Spurn Point on 19th April; this latter bird being reported the following day when it flew north and was no doubt the bird seen at Hornsea Mere on 20th (BP:JCW). One reported flying northeast over Bessacarr near Doncaster on 20th (JMB), this the first record for the Doncaster area for some 140 years. Single at Ellerburn on 22nd April was seen by many observers who had gathered to see the Ospreys present at this same location.

### **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Possibly the best spring in V.C. 61 with many records of single birds from Filey; Flamborough; Hornsea Mere; Bampton; Grimston; Easington; Spurn Point; Tophill Low Res.; Halsham; Buckton; Broomfleet; Whitton Sands; Sunk Island and Hull Docks. Most of the records cover the month of May though a single bird was reported from Hull Docks on 4th April with singles at Hornsea Mere and Sunk Island on 26th. Three were at Spurn Point on 11th May, two the following day with three more on 13th. Considered to have been two at Tophill Low Res. on 17th, three at Flamborough on 18th, two at Spurn on 26th with two at Whitton Sands on 5th July. Where reported all were *cream crowns* with the exception of an adult male at Flamborough on 18th May; male at Broomfleet the same day with an immature male at Whitton Sands on 21st June and a male there on 8th July.

There were no records from V.C. 62 again this year whilst in V.C. 63 the bulk of the records came from Blacktoft Sands where the first bird was reported on 28th March, an adult male, with an adult female there from 15th to 28th April with a further two adult females there on 25th. 11 birds were recorded during May with one, an immature male pairing with a female from 24th May, the male displaying though breeding not attempted. Peak counts during this period being four on 11th and 12th May and again on 27th and 28th.

Singles at Bubwith on 17th April and at Thorpe Marsh on 19th, further single birds were reported from Wheldrake Ings; Aughton; Wath Ings; Potteric Carr and Heworth Green during the spring.

Few records from V.C. 64 with single birds reported at Fairburn Ings on 8th May; Knaresborough Ringing Station on 21st May and High Batts on 29th.

Single birds at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th May and Leighton Res. on 1st June were the only records from V.C. 65.

Autumn numbers were lower with two to the west at Sunk Island on 9th August and two at Spurn Point on 17th September being the only records of more than a single bird in V.C. 61. Four were recorded at Blacktoft Sands on 30th August.

### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

The main winter roost was again at Blacktoft Sands where four were present on 1st January increasing to up to seven during February with three males on 24th; eight recorded on 5th March being the highest count for the year decreasing to six by the end of the month and five during early April, four by mid month with a single male present on 24th. The first returning bird of the autumn was a *ringtail* on 14th September increasing to two on 28th, three birds by 8th October remaining at this level until the end of November thence four through most of December with five (two males) on 21st until end of the year.

One to two were present at Broomhead during January though from 28th until 16th March none were reported then three birds decreasing to a single by 3rd April. Two during November but four on 28th. Up to four in the Gouthwaite area during the first three months of the year.

In V.C. 61 birds were reported from many localities along the coast and estuary though with the exception of two to three in the Sunk Island area during January and February, two at Easington on 3rd January and two at Spurn Point on 3rd April; 13th April; 25th and 26th April and 10th May, all were of single birds, the latest being at Spurn on 19th June. Few records during the latter months of the year.

Two were reported from Goathland Moor during the latter months.

A single bird summered in the Barden Moor area.

### **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

Two were reported from Harrogate S.F. on the early date of 27th April (per AFGW). Singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 16th May (PTT); at Spurn Point on 21st; female at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd (AG); an immature male at the same location on 24th (AG) was also reported from Whitton Sands on the same date (TAE). Single at

Spurn Point on 26th; at Paull on 7th June (SML); and Spurn Point on 23rd June and 5th July.

A single bird was also reported from another locality near Harrogate on 23rd May.

### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Bred in the Sheffield area though no indication of numbers given for Yorkshire or Derbyshire. Nine nests were robbed with five chicks being killed by heavy rain/cold during late May. No indication given as to any successful breeding (Sheffield Bird Study Group).

Bred at another location in the county with a bird or birds present at a further five locations during the breeding season.

Single birds were reported from the Lower Derwent on 11th January (PWR) and 2nd March (TED), at Flamborough on 11th May (JCL:PAL), Winterset Res. on 20th August (PAM), Potteric Carr on 23rd February (JT), Fairburn Ings on 1st January (KD:RD), Otley Chevin on 3rd April (TK), Esholt S.F. on 12th September and Knaresborough on 6th December.

A single bird came in off the sea at Spurn Point on 3rd November then flew off south over the Humber. This being only the third record for the Observatory.

### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Still increasing in V.C. 61 with birds reported from many locations and breeding confirmed from over 20. In several locations it is now considered to be more common than Kestrel. Coastal passage was noted at Flamborough where six were recorded on 26th April and six again on 11th October. Six at Spurn Point on 11th May with seven at Broomfleet Ponds on 17th March.

In the York area, which covers parts of V.C. 61; 62 and 63, birds were reported from a record 67 locations with an increase also in numbers reported from the York suburbs.

In V.C. 63 reported as obviously flourishing in all areas from which reports were received. The number of sightings at Blacktoft had increased from 63 during 1983 to 173 this year. Sightings in the suburban areas of Bradford; Huddersfield and Sheffield.

Remains common in V.C. 64 with the status apparently unchanged though considered if anything to be increasing. Up to five were recorded at Gouthwaite during October and November with six at Fairburn Ings on 11th October.

No comments received from V.C. 65.

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Two birds at Barmston on 2nd January (JCW) was the only record from V.C. 61 concerning more than a single bird with most records coming from the early months of the year, at Hull Docks on 18th January; Flamborough on 8th March; Kilnsea and Grimston on 23rd March, the bird at the latter location being reported occasionally to 13th April. At Spurn Point on 26th March. Hornsea, flying east on 18th May, south at Spurn on 13th May. Flamborough on 26th December and Spurn on 10th September.

In the Lower Derwent one at Aughton on 8th March with a single bird in the Brandsby area for a period in early and mid February, at Gilling on 4th April and Stearsy Hagg on 18th May.

A single bird flew north at Ravenscar on 13th May.

Few reported from V.C. 63 with singles at Potteric Carr on 29th May, Midhope on 26th July; Bingley on 14th September; Wath Ings on 26th October and Bretton Park on 9th December.

In V.C. 64 single birds were reported from six locations up to 3rd May with two birds in the Gouthwaite and Leighton Res. (V.C. 65) area during January. A single bird reported near Ilkley on 26th June.

Returning birds appeared at Gouthwaite during mid July with two birds present increasing to four during September and October thence decreasing to two again by the end of the year. Single birds were also noted from nine locations from mid August with up to three present in the Valley of Desolation and two at Buckden on 14th December.

Three were at Redmire on 12th November whilst two were reported regularly throughout the year from Garsdale Head and were thought to be breeding close by in Cumbria.

#### **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

All records came from the north and west of the county with the exception of a single bird at Spurn Point on 7th June and two there on 15th November.

Three were present in the Gouthwaite/Leighton Res. area from the start of the year until early March with two until the end of the month and a single remaining until mid April. Singles were also reported from Barden Moor on 28th March; Wessenden Valley, Marsden on 25th January; between East Hardwick and Carleton on 14th February.

Two records of single birds during the latter months of the year, at Scar House Res. on 20th and 22nd November and Barden Moor on 10th November.

#### **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

An adult on Barden Moor on 11th June (PMW).

A first year bird which frequented the Gouthwaite Res. area from 18th to 31st October was presumably the bird which was found dead below power lines at Hebden Gill and had been ringed in the Lake District earlier in the year.

#### **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird flying north over Filey on 22nd April was only the second record for that location. One which frequented Tophill Low Res. between 18th April and 29th was never reported there during the mornings. Single which came in off the sea at Spurn on 14th May continued high to the northwest.

A single at Sinnington Fish Farm on 7th April, single at Ellerburn Fish Farm on 20th April attracted many observers who found a further two birds (two adults, one immature). At least two of these birds remained in the vicinity until 24th April with one present until 6th May. A single bird at Forge Valley on 3rd May could have been one of these birds. A further bird reported at Ellerburn on 18th June.

Single birds in V.C. 63 at Blacktoft Snads on 31st March; Midhope on 15th April; Blacktoft on 20th April; Hatfield Woodhouse on 23rd April; Potteric Carr on 1st May; Yateholme on 16th; Thorpe Marsh and Broomhill Flash on 18th. At Staveley G.P. and High Batts N.R. on 19th April; Grass Woods on the River Wharfe on 19th and Kilnsey the following day; Gouthwaite Res. on 26th; Low Barden Res. on 8th May; Low Fell on 9th June, Barden Fish Farm on 10th; Rilston Woods and Farnham on 11th and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 14th.

Only a single bird reported from V.C. 65 at Nosterfield on 31st March.

Fewer records during the autumn with singles at Broomfleet Ponds on 27th August; Spurn Point on 28th, near Ellerburn on 17th September, Winterset Res. on 14th July, Blacktoft Sands on 27th August (no doubt the bird reported from Broomfleet Ponds). One drifted over Leeds on 6th September and down the Aire Valley.

A good year.

#### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread, though where comments were received thought possibly to be slightly reduced (Filey; Doncaster area; York area).

Coastal passage reported from Flamborough with 14 on 23rd August; 12 on 11th October and 11 the following day. Spurn had a maximum of 10 on 2nd September. Westerly movement reported along the Humber from Sunk Island with six on 2nd August; seven on 16th and seven again on 23rd.

Ten reported from Gouthwaite on 31st August and 11th October.

#### **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

A single female at Flamborough on 3rd July (JCL:PAL).

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Although nowhere near a full survey of breeding locations carried out there were no indications of any change in status.

Widespread throughout the coastal and estuarine areas of V.C. 61 during the winter months although in almost all cases only single birds were involved. Two were reported from Filey on 9th October and up to two at Spurn regularly from 10th August to 11th October. An excellent year in the York area with single birds on many dates until the last at Bubwith on 5th May and again from 4th September though one found dead at Aughton on 1st August.

Quite well distributed in V.C. 62 during winter with again mostly single birds being reported though two at Bransdale on 18th September.

In V.C. 63 three were at Blacktoft Sands on 15th October and three on Thorne Moors on 6th January; two at Auckley on 31st January, two at Wath on 14th September with two on Thorne Moors on 17th and at Dunsville on 20th December otherwise singles at many locations during both winters.

Single birds though occasionally two at some 20 locations in the lower ground of V.C. 64 to 12th April and from 25th August.

**Hobby** *Falco Subbuteo*

A very good year with one pair successfully breeding in V.C. 63.

V.C. 61 reported single birds at Spurn Point on 8th and 11th May with three there on 13th; whilst on 18th single birds were reported from Filey; Hornsea Mere and one flying west along the Humber being seen at Sunk Island; Stone Creek, Paull and Saltend, and a further single bird east at Sunk Island on 24th May. In June, a single bird at Filey on 4th, one at Broomfleet Ponds on 17th whilst on this date three were reported at Spurn Point, single at Tophill Low Res. on 25th. Singles at Spurn on 3rd and 19th July with further single birds at Hornsea Mere on 12th August and an immature off the sea at Hornsea on 16th with a similar aged bird at Tophill Low Res. on that same day and occasionally for the next two days. Singles at Flamborough on 17th, 25th and 30th with two on 16th. Singles at Filey on 6th and 12th September with one to the northeast over Sunk Island on 27th.

Few records from V.C. 62 with singles at Ellerburn on 20th June and Helmsley on 30th; near Pickering on 25th July.

Many records from V.C. 63 with single birds at Blacktoft Sands on 31st May; between 18th and 23rd June; 29th June to 1st July; 1st and 30th August; 14th October. Ossett Spa S.F. on 20th June; Redmires Res. on 20th July. One grounded at Killamarsh was released at Treeton on 23rd July. One at Winterset Res. on 18th July, Ardsley Res. on 20th August; Knottingley on 7th September. Wath Ings on 4th and 9th May, 13th June; 19th, 28th, 30th and 31st July; Potteric Carr on 17th May; 21st June. Thrybergh on 9th June; 26th August; 9th September and 3rd and 7th October. Sandall Carr on 26th May, Broomhill on 6th August.

V.C. 64 at Fairburn Ings on 25th and 28th May; 13th June; 11th and 21st July; 15th and 16th August and 7th October. One over Headingley (Leeds) on 24th June, The Hollies on 8th July and Carthick Wood on 3rd August. In the Harrogate area singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 16th and 23rd May, at Farnham on 23rd May which may have been the Knaresborough bird. Knaresborough on 1st and 23rd June and 7th July. Hay-a-Park on 14th August and High Batts on 5th October.

Singles at Barden Scale on 19th June and near Bolton Abbey on 20th June.

None reported from V.C. 65.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

A single bird flew into a house window at Hackenthorpe on 6th April (R. F. Raper). The bird was stunned but recovered, and, after being photographed, flew away. It was not wearing jesses.

Published with the escape proviso.

### **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Bred at eight locations in the county with poor success, only three pairs rearing six young due to poor weather in late April.

In V.C. 61 mainly reported from the coast with single birds at Barmston on 2nd and 11th January; this latter bird also being reported from Fraisthorpe on 11th. Single at Flamborough on 26th January. During March single birds were recorded from Flamborough on 3rd and 8th, at Barmston on 9th and Spurn Point on 19th whilst on 20th one was observed flying in off the sea at Filey. One at Filey on 20th April may have been the same bird seen at Speeton on 23rd. One roosted on British Gas Platform 47/3B on 16th June. Singles at Flamborough on 11th September, 7th, 9th, 10th and 17th October (at least three different birds) with two on 28th December. At Filey on 11th and 14th October, 1st and 26th December. Single male at Buckton on 1st September.

Inland in V.C. 61 single birds were reported from the York area at Bubwith on 10th January, Wheldrake Ings on 15th March, Bank Island (near Wheldrake) on 30th March and at Thornton Ings on 15th November.

Singles at Jackson's Bay on 10th February and Long Nab on 3rd August with one northwest over Scarborough on 23rd July being the only records from coastal areas of V.C. 62. One near Lockton on 27th November whilst a bird frequented one area throughout the summer.

In V.C. 63 two were reported from Pugney's G.P. on 5th April and Cupwith Hill on 15th June otherwise single birds at Blacktoft Sands on 4th March, 4th and 17th September and 15th October. Wath Ings on 5th November, Misson on 21st March; Concord Park, Sheffield on 27th September; Winscar Res. on 13th November and Windy Hill (along the M62) on 20th December.

Away from the high ground of V.C. 64 a single juvenile male was reported from the Barden area on 12th February, 22nd March and 26th May. Two flew east over Esholt on 23rd February with single birds at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th February and 12th April; Ripon Park on 26th July; High Batts on 24th August, 5th October; Fairburn Ings on 22nd November and Swillington Ings on 12th December.

Widespread reports of one to two birds were received during all months in V.C. 65.

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Reported as a very poor breeding season on the high ground of V.C. 65 though normal on the lower ground. 80 per cent of the high ground shoots either did not take place or only shot for a very short time. 200 were at Leighton Res. on 14th February.

The only report of note from the high ground of V.C.64 was of c1000 on Bardep Moor on 8th February.

In V.C. 63, numbers in the Huddersfield area were only moderate with 50 at Wessenden on 8th February as the highest count. Some interesting reports from the Sheffield area during February when many birds were located away from the high ground, many feeding on hawthorn berries; 10 at Agden Res. on 15th February, 30 Wadsley Common between 3rd and 10th, 50+ at Rivelin Hagg between 23rd and 28th. Also unusual were 'hundreds' on Whitwell Moor and Stocksbridge Golf Course during February.

No reports received from the North York Moors.

### **Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

Usual small numbers at Feldon and Bellerby Ranges in V.C. 65. Between four and seven birds to the east of Gouthwaite Res. during late February and into early March with two females at the head of the dale on 17th April. The only other record from V.C. 64 was from Langstrothdale with six on 5th January and 12 on 27th April.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Considered to be no charge in status with birds still being released in many areas of V.C. 64. Few coveys of large size reported during the early months with 31 in the Blacktoft Sands area on 9th January as the largest; 23 at Burton Salmon on 12th January and 20+ at Clifton Airfield on the same date.

Post breeding coveys noted were 80 at Moss Valley (Sheffield) on 21st September; 45 at High Batts (released birds); 44 at Thrybergh on 29th September; 30 at Fairburn Ings on 30th November and 30 at Sprotbrough on 3rd October. Reported as very common in the Pickering area where 48 were recorded in one field on 30th December.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Still declining in the Filey area; smaller than usual coveys in the Tophill Low Res. area; still declining in some areas of V.C. 64. A generally healthy situation in the Sheffield area and an apparent slight recovery in the Lower Derwent.

The harsh weather of the early months produced some large coveys with 55 in the Scar House Road area in February; 42 at Thrybergh on 12th February; 41 at Sunk Island on 9th February; 48 at Pugney's on 8th February and 35 on Eccup Moor on 16th February.

Larger coveys were reported during the latter months with 67 at Paull on 27th September; 41 at Cherry Cobb on 18th October and 42 there on 13th December. 50 at Wentworth on 2nd November; 44 at Thrybergh on 7th October with 42 there on 12th December; 40 at Finningley during September; 47 at Wath on 22nd December.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Quite a good year. In V.C. 61 single birds were reported from Flamborough on 15th June and 5th July whilst further along the headland at Bempton the first bird was recorded on 25th May and a bird or birds were heard calling on 13 days of June; five in July and six in August. There were at least four birds present on 27th June with two or more being reported on several other days. A single at Thornwick Bay on 14th June. Five were at Brandsby on 20th July with five at Ellerton on 22nd July.

Singles at Spurn Point on 26th and 27th May.

Calling birds were heard in V.C. 63 at Wintersett on 14th June; North Almston on 22nd and Silkstone Common on 25th; at Holme during July and in the Ingbirchworth/Broadstones area from 2nd July to 21st August. Three were at Lindholme Airfield on 9th and 10th June (two seen), two on Hatfield Moor on 23rd June; two at Everton Carr on 6th July with a single at Misson on 24th July.

Single at Pot Bank (near Harrogate) on 17th May with one at Markington on 20th June and two near High Batts on 20th July and a single bird there on 23rd August.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

The status of this species remains unchanged with many birds being released by shooting concerns, frequently in large numbers, as can be demonstrated by the 24000 released by one syndicate in Wensleydale, 197+ feeding in one field near Warter on 17th January, 100 near Tophill Low Res; 180 in the Wilsic area, 140 at Buttercrambe.

Four all white birds at Castle Howard on 21st December.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Confirmed breeding at Blacktoft Sands with two pairs; one at Potteric Carr and possible breeding at Tophill Low Res. and Old Denaby.

During the winter months birds were reported from fifty locations, usually one to two birds being involved though six were present at Hornsea Mere on 5th January; up to four at Tophill Low Res. until early May and then again from mid July. Three at Fulford Ings on 15th November; 15 at Blacktoft Sands on 7th January though decreasing during the extreme weather of February. Increased there to 10 on October 15th thence 15 on 1st November and 10 again on 23rd December. Three at Potteric Carr during December with three to four at Sprotbrough during the same month. Six at Esholt S.F. on 4th and

5th January with up to seven at Fairburn Ings during January; five there during February and six in March; four there on 30th November.

#### **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

A single at Spurn Point on 14th August was the fifth record for the Observatory (SML). A female at Tophill Low Res. on 15th August (RL) with a juvenile discovered there the following day (JBL *et al.*). A single bird at Blacktoft Sands from 17th August to 4th September with another bird present from 28th August to 9th September (AG *et al.*). Single at Carlton Marsh from 29th September to 2nd October (PS *et al.*).

Addition to 1983 Report: Two birds calling to each other at Tophill Low Res. on 5th June, record withheld at time due to possible breeding (RL).

#### **Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Single bird at Spurn Point on 17th May (SM) and one at East Cottingham on 12th June (TED:TB).

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Status appears to be unchanged with widespread breeding in the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas. Reported as common and widespread throughout V.C. 64 though numbers still affected in some areas by predation from Mink.

The highest counts during the early months of the year were 43 at Tophill Low Res. on 9th February; 50 at Stone Creek on 26th January; 45 at Wath on 4th January.

Slightly higher numbers during the latter months with 61 at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd August and 52 there on 18th December, up to 100 at Sprotbrough until the end of the year; 61 at Skipton S. W. on 21st August with 62 at Fairburn Ings on 16th October.

30 pairs bred at Sprotbrough Flash with 15 at Blacktoft rearing many broods.

#### **Coot** *Fulcia atra*

Bred at many lowland locations in V.C. 63 and continues to follow the tendency shown in recent years to expand westwards to waters at a higher altitude though numbers at these higher locations are still very small.

570 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th January with 688 at Pugney's the following day; 632 there on 17th February decreasing to 480 on 7th March. Up to 730 at Fairburn Ings during January; 261 at Winterset Res. on 12th January and 165 at Wentworth on 7th January; declined here by February after two Coot shoots.

Higher numbers later in the year with 521 at Bolton-on-Swale on 24th September; 358 at Winterset Res. on 14th September with 359 on 6th October and up to 300 there until the end of the year. Up to 803 at Fairburn Ings in August; 1210 in September; 1307 in October and 1430 during December. 1220 at Hornsea Mere on 4th November being the highest count for that water.

#### **Crane** *Grus grus*

Two adults and an immature at Aughton on 3rd and 4th May (TED *et al.*) were last seen on the 5th when the two adults disappeared; the immature remaining in the vicinity until 5th June (TB).

A single immature was present at Cayton Carrs on 8th and 9th May (RNH: WAC *et al.*).

These records are under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

On 11th May, what may have been the Cayton Carrs bird was reported flying south over Flamborough (PJD); south at Hornsea (RSPB) and an unidentified crane south offshore at Spurn. No details have been received from the observers at either Flamborough or Hornsea.

A first year bird was at Bempton on 28th May (MD) – accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

No details of a bird seen at Filey, on 20th August, have been received. A bird was reputedly in the Muston area, near Filey, during the week previous to this occurrence although yet again regrettably, no details have been forthcoming.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The only breeding along the coast occurred at Filey, where one pair was successful. Apparently this species has bred here for several years. Two pairs at Kilnsea/Easington, one successful; one unsuccessful at Spurn and two pairs both of which were unsuccessful along the Humber at Paull and Cherry Cobb.

Inland in V.C.61, bred in apparently normal numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area with between eight and ten pairs. No records of breeding elsewhere in the York area.

Single pair reared two young at Blacktoft whilst in V.C. 64 breeding is considered to be on the increase especially in mid Wharfedale (Ilkley to Arthington) where 19 pairs bred at nine sites. Single pairs bred at Bolton-on-Swale and at Wensley on the River Ure.

Birds were reported returning to the higher ground in the west by early March with 55 at Nosterfield on 11th; 81 at Masham on 16th and 60 in the Ribble Valley on 12th.

Westerly passage along the Humber was noted at Blacktoft between 12th July and 11th September with a total of 776 being counted; 76 on 10th August, 116 on 17th and 105 on 18th August being the peak days.

Maximum monthly counts on the Humber at Spurn were 2000 on 3rd January; 1700 on 4th February; 1200 on 12th March; 1500 on five days during October; 2000 on 10th November and 1500 on five days of December.

Southerly passage along the coast was noted from several locations with 102 at Flamborough on 26th and 531 off Spurn on 31st. In August, 162 at Filey on 6th; 717 at Spurn on 8th; 208 at Flamborough and 121 at Hornsea on 10th; 493 at Flamborough, 101 at Filey and 110 at Hornsea on 11th; 362 at Filey, 404 at Flamborough and 123 at Hornsea on 22nd.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

One flew northeast over the Wilsic/Wadworth area to the south of Doncaster on 17th August (KRi).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Single at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 24th May. A single bird at Catwick G.P. from 21st to 23rd June (EWC:BP); single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd June (RL. DEM). Two present at Blacktoft Sands from 20th to 24th June (AG *et al*). Nine on the Humber at Spurn Point on 28th June were seen to leave to the south.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Three successful breeding pairs in V.C. 61; two in the York area and one at Tophill Low Res. A pair also attempted to breed at Pulfen Bog though the outcome is unknown. Four juveniles plus two adults at Riccall in the third week of June may have been locally bred. Ten pairs bred in V.C. 63, most of them in the Doncaster area plus eight pairs near Sheffield though the local report did not state how many were actually in Yorkshire. Only 11 pairs at seven sites in V.C. 64 with birds holding territory at a further four sites. Five successful pairs in V.C. 65.

The first birds were reported from Farnham and Wath on 19th March followed by one at Swillington on 23rd and Pugney's on 25th. Well distributed by early April with numbers increasing throughout the month; 10 at Broomhill on 20th whilst six flew north off Hornsea on 11th May.

Post breeding concentrations were reported from many locations with 11 at Blacktoft Sands on 11th July increasing to 12 on 17th. 25 were at Aldwarke S.F. from 29th July to mid August and 11 at Pugney's on 4th July. Up to 15 were recorded at Fairburn Ings

during July and August. Few in V.C. 61 with six at Tophill Low Res. on 17th August and seven on 21st. Last birds reported were a single at Blacktoft on 6th September; at Tophill Low Res. until 14th and Wath Ings until 20th.

24 at Burghy Banks on 13th July.

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Six pairs attempted to breed at Kilnsea/Easington with five being successful. A pair was thought to have had either eggs or chicks at Aughton on 8th June judging by distraction displays but the field was unfortunately ploughed the following day. Three pairs bred in V.C. 63, two being successful, at Blacktoft and Potteric Carr; at Farnham and Grimwith in V.C. 64 and Nosterfield, Catterick, Preston Quarry; Middleham and Scorton Quarry in V.C. 65.

Small numbers were reported along the Humber with an increase noted at Cherry Cobb in late February to 30 on 16th and thence to 44 on 16th March. Few reported during April but a large increase during May when birds of the northern race *C.h. tundrae* were present. This passage peaked at 660 on 18th with 44 still present on 7th June. 169 birds of this race were at Saltend on 19th May (SML). Further west along the estuary at Blacktoft 13 were present on 29th March with 18 on 24th April. Good passage was recorded along the Lower Derwent with 20 birds at Aughton on 13th, 27 on 14th and 24 on 18th, no doubt belonging to the northern race. Further inland seven were at Misson on 14th March; up to eight at Pugney's during April and May with seven in the Ribble Valley during May and Nosterfield 17 on 29th May.

In the Autumn 140 were reported on the Humber shore at Spurn on 21st August with 220 at Cherry Cobb on 24th though this latter location was not well covered during this month and this count may not be a true reflection of numbers there. 16 at Nosterfield on 7th July with 11 at Gouthwaite on 8th. 12 at Wath Ings on 16th August.

Far larger numbers than usual were recorded from Tophill Low Res. as a result of the draining of the large 'D' Res., after four on 7th August there were seldom less than ten during the remainder of the month with 13 on 11th; 15 on 18th and 29th and 22 on 30th. In September 17 were present during the early days of the month increasing to 24 on 5th falling to 23 on 7th, 21 the following day and between 10 and 18 until 23rd.

Coastal passage was noted at Hornsea and Spurn Point with 43 to the south at the former on 6th August, 36 there on 15th and 16 on 16th when 56 flew south off Spurn.

Two birds at Flamborough from 26th to 28th August were of the northern race *C.h. tundrae* and were the first recorded occurrence of this race at that location.

### **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A single female at Aughton on 6th May was seen briefly there the following day (TB:TED:PP). The second record for the York area.

### **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Eight flew northeast over Stone Creek on 27th April (MSL): four near Blacktoft Sands on 3rd May; six near Sheffield on 6th May; five on Malham Moor on 7th May (PW:SP). Two near Blacktoft on 11th May (AG); five on Rombalds Moor on 12th with two still there the following day (WG). Seven at Grinton on 14th May and seven near Sheffield on 18th.

The only autumn records came from V.C. 61 with two at Flamborough on 23rd August (PAL); two at Kilnsea/Easington on 6th and 7th September with a single bird there on 11th; 17th and 18th. A single at Spurn Point on 19th October.

### **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

A single bird at Whitton Sands on 28th and 29th June and again on 19th July (TAE:CS).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

A single adult at Flamborough on 10th August (PAL:NAP:MJP).

Accepted by the YNU Records Committee but not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Addition to 1985 Report:

Single bird at Fraithorpe from 26th January to 2nd February (SML:HJW *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Birds on territory in some 15 moorland locations to the west of Halifax; Huddersfield and Sheffield though breeding was only confirmed at one of these; however it is considered that breeding took place at all locations. Breeding numbers in the Settle area reported to be unchanged despite a dramatic decline in numbers of birds recorded during passage and winter. No comments on breeding numbers received from V.C. 65.

In V.C. 61 the large numbers present at Cherry Cobb during the latter days of 1985 had decreased to 3100 by 26th January thence with the extreme weather of February numbers fell after the 485 on 9th February to below 200 until 1485 on 13th April. 580 there on 27th April were mainly of the northern race. Returning birds were recorded from 15th June with numbers fluctuating to about 385 during July. Only one count took place at this location during August when 6450 were recorded on 24th though a little further downstream c12000 were estimated to be present at Patrington Haven/Sunk Island on 17th. Increased in numbers at Cherry Cobb throughout September to give a count of 8000 on 27th thereafter monthly maxima of 5600 in October; 5050 in November and 5750 in December were recorded. Numbers at Hawkin's Point, on Sunk Island were lower with 1200 on 23rd August; 1800 on 31st and 1150 on 6th September. 1000 were reported from Broomfleet Ponds on 6th December; 1000 at Whitton Sands on 19th August and 15th September.

Away from the estuary, very few at Tophill Low Res. until August when 800 were present on 12th; 500 north there on 22nd and 1000 south on 31st. 3000 recorded on 11th October was a rather isolated peak. Small numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas during the early months with the exception of 1000 at Wheldrake on 15th January and 2500 on the lower Ings on 21st. By 6th February, during the very harsh weather numbers at North Duffield had decreased to 12. 850 at Wistow Lordship on 23rd August was the only count of any magnitude during that month and generally numbers were slow to build up during the latter months until c2000 at the same locality on 30th October, this flock remaining until the end of the year. Increase in numbers during December with 1400 on the Lower Derwent Ings on 16th increasing to 3500 the following day. 1000 at Bubwith on 9th to 12th. The large flocks along the North Holderness coast between Hornsea and Bridlington of recent years appear to have moved elsewhere with 400 at Barmston on 14th October as the highest reported.

Very few in V.C. 63 during the early months with 300 at Pugney's being reported on several occasions in January to March with much fluctuation between peaks and 500 at Loversall Carr on 4th January and a similar number at Wath on 11th April. During the latter months counts were higher with 700 at Pugney's on 14th December; 1400 at Wath on 18th October, 1600 on 13th November and 2000 on 22nd falling to 1500 by the first week of December and to 700 by the end of the year. 1400 at Blacktoft on 17th August with maxima of 300 during September and 800 in October before increasing to 1100 on 26th November and 3500 on 3rd December thereafter decreasing to only 300 by late December.

The cold weather also resulted in reduced counts throughout V.C. 64 during the early months with 650 at Fairburn Ings in January and 550 there in February; 200 at Pool Meadows on 25th January and 370 at Mickletown Ings on 19th January as the locations reporting counts of over 100. Numbers in late autumn also reported as poor however this being considered attributable to mild weather with many birds still on the moors in late November and December. The highest counts being again at Fairburn Ings with up

to 1007 during October; 1200 in November and 600 in December. 600 reported at Ripon during early December.

The only records received from V.C. 65 were from Bolton-on-Swale with 500 on 18th April decreasing to 300 on 26th. 405 on 1st August, 915 on 30th with c1000 during November and December peaking at 1350 on 29th December.

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Small numbers along the coast with 26 at Cornelian Bay on 2nd March; maximum of 21 at Filey during January; 16 at a roost at Fraithorpe on 11th January, 10 on 25th and 20 on 22nd February. 11 in a flooded field at Grimston on 4th February. At Spurn, monthly maxima were 40 on 5th January; 8 on 2nd February; 17 on 15th March; 65 on 5th October; 26 on 9th November and 22 on 7th December. 63 on 28th August and up to 82 during September. 30 were seen leaving Spurn towards the east on 26th May.

The highest numbers as usual were reported from Cherry Cobb where between 100 and 182 (February 16th) were recorded during the first two months of the year after which numbers decreased until early April when the first migrants passed through after which counts increased to 120 on 27th April, 410 on 11th May, 645 on 18th then decreasing to 310 on 23rd. Reported throughout June with 36 on 15th. First returning birds were 12 on 13th July with peaks of 310 on 24th August and 203 on 21st September thereafter counts of less than 50 except for 73 on 22nd November. Further east at Sunk Island 320 were recorded on 12th January; 100 on 15th February; c150 on 30th March; 118 on 26th April; 82 on 11th May; 300 on 23rd August and 100 on 28th December.

Smaller numbers on the estuary at Whitton Sands with four on 19th August when six flew west; 11 to west on 20th and ten present on 17th September.

Blacktoft Sands reported 16 to the west on 9th January with one to two birds present on several days during January and February; occasionally April May and June; one to two during the latter months with three on 9th and 10th September and three again on 6th November.

Inland in V.C. 63, two at Ossett Spa S.F. from 19th to 21st February with single birds at six other locations mainly during the latter months.

Single bird at Fairburn Ings on 18th April remained until 20th with two at the same location on 2nd May and single birds on 9th; 11th and 17th May; 30th and 31st August and in September on 20th, 21st and 25th. Singles at Malham Tarn on 3rd May; at Eccup Res. on the rather unusual date of 26th June; High Batts on 7th September and in the Ribble Valley on 15th September.

The York O.S. report an increase of records in the Lower Derwent with two at Bubwith on 11th January followed by two at North Duffield and one at Aughton the following day. Four at North Duffield on 15th; three there on 19th with four the following day and a single on 27th whilst another single was at Aughton on 31st. Singles at North Duffield on 7th March and singles at Bolton Percy Ings and Wharfe Ings on 20th April.

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The only comment received on breeding numbers in V.C. 61 was for the York area where it was stated that numbers were about normal with c40 pairs at Aughton Ings.

Numbers throughout V.C. 61 were low during the first months of the year with the highest counts being in the York area with several parties of up to 500 birds and larger flocks at Wheldrake Ings on 15th and 20th January when 800 were reported; 600 were at Bubwith on 21st and a similar number at Ellerton the same day. 300 at Middlethorpe Ings on 7th February and 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 9th being the last to leave before the onset of the severe weather. On the 2nd March only three birds could be found along the whole of the Lower Derwent. Birds returned as the weather improved with 1380 on the Lower Derwent on 16th March most of which were in the Bubwith/Aughton/Ellerton area.

300 at Filey during February was the highest count elsewhere in the Vice County with Tophill Low Res. having 50 on 5th March as the highest count there during the first

three months; 140 at Cherry Cobb on 18th January and 190 at Flamborough on 15th March were the maximum at those localities. 336 flew south at Spurn on 17th March with 164 to the east there on 15th on which date 160 flew east at Sunk Island with 400 to the east there the following day. Higher numbers during the latter months of the year with 750 at Flamborough on 15th November and 805 on 15th December decreasing to 650 on 20th and 640 on 28th. 1500 at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd October with 1360 there on 19th November and 780 at Swinemoor, near Beverley on 5th November.

At Cherry Cobb numbers remained below 100 until 24th August when 235 were recorded after which there was a slow build up to mid November when a marked increase to 1800 on 22nd; 1300 on 6th December with 3300 on 14th decreasing to 750 by 20th. Further east at Sunk Island 400 were reported on the Humber shore on 15th November with 64 flying east and 2322 to the southwest. The following day 550 were on the shore with 738 moving east whilst c1500 were recorded on both 22nd November and 14th December. The massive southwest movement was not noted at Spurn though 285 flew south at Bridlington that day and large numbers (above) were reported from Flamborough.

A similar pattern was noted along the Lower Derwent where numbers were not high until mid November when c2100 were reported. 800 at Wheldrake Ings on 19th increased to 1800 by 26th. 1000 were at Bubwith on 9th and 10th December; 1000 at Wheldrake on 26th increasing to 1500 on 29th. Combined totals for the Lower Derwent were 3800 on 16th December; 2500 on 17th and 1445 on 25th. 1000+ at Clifton Ings on 20th and 1200 at Bishopthorpe on 31st.

The breeding situation in V.C. 63 was described as not as good in some areas as in previous years; considered to be sparse in the Sheffield area; fewer around Huddersfield; Sutton Moor near Keighley, formerly a good breeding site being deserted. The only concentrations of over 1000 during January and February were reported from Loversall and Wadworth Carrs where 1600 were present between 20th and 29th January, 1000+ all February with 2000 on 22nd. 470 at Thrybergh on 1st January and 700 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 2nd.

As with V.C. 61, numbers during the latter months of the year were higher; 950 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 3rd August; 750 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 10th October; Wath Ings had 1000 present by the end of August with 1600 on 11th September, 1000 still at Wath during October with up to 2000 in November and 1000 during December. 2100 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th November with 2200 on 3rd December.

650+ at Pool Meadows on 4th January was the only large gathering in V.C. 64 during the early months owing to harsh weather. Larger numbers during Autumn with 700+ at Fairburn Ings. 1280 at Tadcaster on 26th November; 1000+ at Farnham on 16th November and 20th December; 1500 at Ripon on 2nd December; 1500 on Killinghall Moor during December.

No numbers reported from V.C. 65 during the early months. 1350 at Nosterfield during November with 975 at Masham during the same month. Large numbers in the Bolton-on-Swale area from August onwards with 2800 on 26th October; 3000 at Catterick Race Course on 20th November and 2600 at Bolton-on-Swale on 3rd December.

A leucistic bird at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th October with what may have been the same bird at Morley on 13th October.

### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Maxima at Spurn for the early and late months was 3650 on 5th January; 2000 on 4th February; 500 in early March; 100 on 5th October though not reported daily and generally only up to 55 birds present: 4000 on 29th November after increasing during the last days of the month; 4000 on 12th December, an isolated peak, with 100 to 500 on most days.

At Cherry Cobb reported regularly during the first four months with a maximum count of 1800 on 26th January; 72 were present on 11th May, nine on 23rd and 11 on 15th June. Very few during Autumn passage with maximum of 18 on 14th September and not until 22nd November was a count of any note reported when 440 were present.

1550 on 14th December being the highest count of the latter months. 800 were at Sunk Island on 26th January with 1500 on 9th February and 850 on 2nd March decreasing to 650 on 22nd and 400 by 13th April. 500 there on 2nd August and 420 on 28th December. 400 at Skeffling on 6th April.

Further west along the estuary several records from Whitton Sands with a single on 21st July; five on 22nd; four the following day; four on 7th August, three on 19th August, four on 20th and two on 3rd October; most of these flying west. Two at Blacktoft on 21st and 29th July with three on 8th August, a single bird on 20th August and two on 7th September.

Coastal passage was reported from all locations with the highest numbers being reported from Spurn where 713 flew south on 31st July; 190 on 7th August and 499 on 13th November. Smaller counts from Hornsea, Flamborough and Filey with 52 at Hornsea on 28th July and 101 there on 1st August.

Numbers at Filey were higher than usual with monthly maxima of 200 during February and 300 in March.

Inland in V.C. 61; a single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 13th and 14th August with further single birds on 17th August and 12th September.

Single at Wheldrake Ings on 9th February with two at Aughton on 7th May.

A single at Pugney's on 25th April with a second bird there on 21st and 22nd July; single at Wath Ings on 23rd November.

A good year in V.C. 64 with one at Fairburn Ings on 14th and 15th March followed by single birds at Farnham on 23rd March; in the Ribble Valley on 24th March; at Fairburn from 4th to 11th May and at Staveley on 10th June. Single birds during the Autumn at Fairburn on 3rd and 5th July; Gouthwaite on 26th July, at Fairburn on 5th, 6th and 16th August and again at Gouthwaite on 15th August and 7th December.

V.C. 65 reported two birds at Nosterfield on 4th August, singles at Masham from 9th to 12th August and Nosterfield on 22nd.

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

A record count of 129 at Filey Brigg on 11th January whilst in Bridlington Bay, an established wintering location, 106 were present the same day. 124 there on 25th January; 174 on 22nd February and 208 on 22nd March. During the latter months of the year 143 were reported on 15th November and 108 on 29th December. One to eight occasionally recorded on beaches in Holderness. Small numbers at Spurn though 26 on 1st March and 31 on 15th but passage noted with between 111 and 140 during the last days of May. Along the Humber at Cherry Cobb many more records than usual with maximum count of 44 on 18th May whilst at Sunk Island 19 were recorded on 11th May, four on 17th and 18th; seven west there on 24th and nine on 25th. Saltend reported 10 on 14th May; 14 on 16th and 34 on 19th while Whitton Sands had 17 to the west on 25th May and 12 there on 26th when a further two flew west. Blacktoft had six west on 12th May with three the following day and seven on 24th.

Inland a single at Tophill Low Res. on 4th August with a single at Aughton on 11th and 12th May; two at Wheldrake on 25th and three at Aughton the same day one of which was still present on 26th.

The only records of more than 10 from V.C. 62 were at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough where 27 were counted on 27th January; 26 on 21st February; 25 on 14th December and 22 on 16th.

Single birds at Rother Valley Country Park on 5th and 21st May with one at Pugney's on 11th and at Wath Ings the same day. Three at Angler's on 7th with two there on the 8th, singles on 12th; 14th; 20th; 21st and 27th. At Aldwarke S.F. on 28th; Broomhill on 21st. Two at Blackmoorfoot on 25th July and a single at Wath Ings on 31st.

Reported from three locations in V.C. 64 with a single bird at Fairburn Ings from 5th to 18th May and two there on 14th and 15th. Singles again on 5th and 6th August and 30th. Gouthwaite recorded singles on 11th and 26th May and 31st July whilst at Eccup there were single birds on 30th May and 28th August.

A single at Scorton Quarry on 15th May and at Nosterfield on 21st with three at this latter location on 26th.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

A single adult at Blacktoft Sands first seen on 22nd July (BR) was present until 29th and seen by many observers. The first record for Yorkshire and Great Britain.

Under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Eight at Flamborough on 8th March was an unusual record. Single birds reported from Pugney's on 14th May; Winterset and Nosterfield on 18th with three at Blacktoft Sands on 30th May and singles there on 7th and 8th June and two from 24th to 29th June whilst four were at Fairburn Ings on 9th June. Singles at Easington on 31st May and Bempton on 9th June.

The first of the autumn was a single bird at Filey on 25th July on which date one was also reported from Blacktoft Sands. Became more widespread in August with four at Flamborough on 2nd, two at Easington/Kilnsea on 8th, three at Tophill Low Res. from 11th to 17th with five at Blacktoft on 13th. Eight were recorded at Blacktoft on 16th and 17th August with three at Easington/Kilnsea on 18th, four there on 19th and three again on 20th with six at Blacktoft on this latter date. 10 at Easington/Kilnsea on 22nd and again on 26th though only a single bird there on 23rd; four at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd; eight at Easington/Kilnsea on 27th; five at Tophill Low Res. on 27th with seven on 28th. Three at Flamborough on 27th and two there the following day; five at Whitton Sands on 31st.

Numbers smaller during September with five at Blacktoft on 16th; three at Easington/Kilnsea on 21st; two at Whitton Sands on 1st and 3rd with single birds reported from Fairburn Ings, Tophill Low Res., Stone Creek, Broomfleet Ponds, Hornsea, Nosterfield with two to three at Spurn Point from 19th to 23rd.

Three at Hull Docks on 4th October with two at Fairburn Ings on 6th and single birds during this month at Blacktoft Sands and Tophill Low Res.

A single bird at Blacktoft on 5th November with two there the following day whilst a late bird was at Flamborough on 7th December.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Single birds occurred at Blacktoft Sands on 12th and 17th May, the only spring records of this species.

In autumn single birds were reported from Blacktoft Sands on 21st July (AG *et al*); at Whitton Sands on 19th August (TAE); Filey from 27th to 30th August (HJW *et al*) and at Flamborough on 28th (PAL).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Single birds at Carthick Wood near Leeds on 12th July (ASB:RCH *et al*) and at Masham G.P. on 27th and 28th July (DB *et al*).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring single birds at Kilnsea on 19th May; Blacktoft Sands on 27th May; Wath/Broomhill on 22nd June; Blacktoft Sands on 23rd, 26th and 27th June with two there on 15th and 16th.

Autumn was generally poor with one to three birds at several locations during the period mid August to late September. Higher numbers were five at Saltend on 7th September: nine at Easington/Kilnsea on 8th August with nine there again on 6th September and four on 9th September; five at Whitton Sands on 16th September; seven at Blacktoft Sands on 15th August and 11 there on 8th September. Five were reported from Tophill Low Res. from 29th August to 4th September with seven from 5th to 7th decreasing to five again from 8th to 10th.

In October, singles at Tophill Low Res. on 1st; at Blacktoft Sands on 6th and 7th with two on 8th and two at Saltend on 12th.

### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The only records away from the coast were a single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 27th June; the first record from this location; one at Whitton Sands on 4th September; one at Wath Ings on 4th November being only the second record for the Doncaster area and a single bird at the Rother Valley Country Park on 23rd November.

In V.C. 62, 70 were at Scarborough on 8th February whilst at Whitby 125 were counted the following day. 62 at Staithes on 27th March. Smaller numbers during the latter months of the year with 44 at Whitby being the highest count reported.

In V.C. 61, Flamborough reported 30 on 12th January, a similar number on 12th April with 36 on 19th and 43 on 26th. 35 there on 2nd November with 32 on 15th. Filey Brigg, as usual, attracted the highest numbers with monthly maxima of 60 during January; 40 in February; 267 in March and 275 in April. Numbers as elsewhere, were lower during the last four months of the year with maxima of 50 in September; 76 in October; 75 in November and 92 during December. Birds were absent from Filey between 21st May and 12th July and Flamborough between 11th May and 13th July.

Three flew south at Hornsea on 19th October with two at Barmston on 14th October otherwise single birds occasionally reported from the Holderness coast during both winters. Single birds at Spurn on 24th April; 29th June and during the last four months of the year with two on 3rd August; three on 1st November and two the following day.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Breeding evidence in V.C. 63 sparse; absent from one Huddersfield area stronghold though may have been present in other areas which were not visited. Bred on Worley Moor, near Halifax. Two pairs were on Shaking Moss in V.C. 65 though this is an area where normally up to 15 pairs breed and according to a local keeper this year was considered to be a bad one for both grouse and waders.

Numbers along the Humber were normal with the highest counts being reported from Cherry Cobb where monthly maxima were 6300 during January; 6500 in February; 3000 in March with up to 6000 in April and 3700 in May. Only a single bird present there on 1st July but an influx to 220 the following day increasing throughout the month to 1700 on 24th thereafter little sign of further increases until 3000 on 11th October. 4000 on 7th December was the only other count of the year.

Spurn Point had maxima during the first three and last three months of 1150 during January; 2500 in February on the 16th; 1200 on 30th March; 1500 on 17th and 25th October; 1620 on 9th November and 1400 on 7th December. As with Cherry Cobb, numbers were low during the early part of July until 80 were recorded on 17th increasing to 648 on 20th, 1500 on 23rd and 2000 on 24th. Numbers then fell to 1200 on 28th and 1000 on 30th and 770 on 1st August.

Elsewhere along the Humber, at Sunk Island 700 were recorded on 1st January with 910 on 5th April; 500 on 2nd August and 1200 on 28th December. 300 to 500 at Whitton Sands during the winter months with maximum count of 600 on 16th September.

Beacon Lane Ponds/Easington Lagoons reported good numbers particularly during early autumn with a maximum count of 1500 on 27th July decreasing to 500 on 30th and 700 on 9th August.

400+ at Cornelian Bay was the highest count from V.C. 62 whilst at Filey the highest count of the year, 650, came during January.

Coastal passage was reported from many locations with generally small numbers apart from at Spurn Point where 167 flew south on 7th August; 93 on 17th October and 923 on 13th November. The highest count at Hornsea being 70 to the north on 2nd November.

Good numbers reported from the Lower Derwent during January with 150 at Wheldrake Ings on 15th when 140 were at North Duffield Carrs. On 20th 250 were counted between North Duffield/Aughton/Bubwith with 300 at Bubwith and 100 at

Wheldrake on the following day. Numbers decreased dramatically during the harsh weather of February with 15 at North Duffield on 6th and 10 there on 18th being the highest counts. A rapid build up occurred during early March with 150 at North Duffield on 6th whilst on 17th 300 were at Aughton/Ellerton, 120 at Aughton on 30th March with 200 there on 12th April. Counts were low during the latter months of the year.

Blacktoft Sands had monthly maxima of 350 in January; 50 during February (very cold weather); 150 in March, 550 on 25th April; 210 in May with up to 12 during June though absent from 7th to 15th; 580 in July, on 22nd; 330 during August; 266 in September; 330 in October; 168 in November and 37 during December. Away from this location double figure counts were reported from Pugney's on 11th January with 12; 13 there on 7th May with 17 on 18th July; Angler's Lake with 13 on 24th March and 13 to the north there on 18th October. 13 at Wath Ings on 18th July.

In V.C. 64, 21 at Fairburn Ings was the highest count during the winter months whilst spring passage was noted at some 17 locations with generally one to five birds being involved though 16 at Fairburn on 11th May on which date 14 were at Skipton S.W. with 16 at Grimwith Res. the previous day. Seven at Fairburn on 7th June.

Autumn passage again of one to five birds recorded at 14 locations though 43 at Gouthwaite Res. during July; 13 at Fairburn Ings on 20th July and 36 there on 9th August with occasionally up to 14 until the end of the year.

Up to 28 were reported from Nosterfield during May with 14 during July at the same location.

#### **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola Falcinellus*

A single adult was present at Flamborough on 2nd July (AMA:DGH:PAL:MJP:NAP).

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Once again, possibly bred in the Lower Derwent though numbers were well down on 1985. Lekking was observed during May at one site where up to eight males were involved and a single female being observed there on 18th. A second location held up to 10 males during the first week of the month.

Reported during January from the Lower Derwent with 12 at Bubwith on 10th, 10 at Wheldrake Ings on 20th and six flying north at North Duffield on the same date. Five birds remained at Wheldrake until 5th February when the harsh weather caused all to leave. Six at Blacktoft Sands on 25th February.

Spring passage was normal with 12 at Blacktoft on 26th April as the highest count reported away from the Lower Derwent.

Autumn passage was noted at several locations from mid to late June with small numbers involved until late July with the exception of Blacktoft where 26 were present on 29th June increasing to 40 on 6th July; 52 on 19th and 62 by the end of the month. Five locations reported large concentrations during August with 67 at Sunk Island on 23rd and 135 at Cherry Cobb the following day; the numbers at Blacktoft increased to 85 on 8th and 125 on 21st. Until this date almost all the birds at this location were adults after which numbers were further swelled by migrant juveniles thus increasing the flock to 175 on 30th August and to 205 on 1st September. Across the river at Whitton Sands, 20 on 17th August had increased to 50 on 19th remaining at that level until the end of the month. Tophill Low Res. had few at the start of August building to a peak of 175 by 15th thereafter a slight decrease to between 130 and 160 until 27th thence down to 66 on 29th. This location had a second peak on 2nd September when 152 were recorded with 137 on 5th; 70 on 11th decreasing to 56 on 22nd and 23 by 1st October. Blacktoft, after 205 on 1st September reported gradually falling numbers until 65 by the end of the month then remaining fairly constant to 64 on 30th October. Whitton Sands reported 100+ on 13th September with 80 on 15th; 75 on 20th and 60 on 3rd October decreasing to 20 on 11th. 45 were at Blacktoft on 3rd November thereafter up to 12 during the rest of the month; four at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd November.

Away from these traditional sites unusually large numbers were reported in V.C. 64 during the autumn with between one to six birds at 10 locations and eight at Staveley on 23rd August; 11 at Nosterfield on 26th August; 16 at Mickletown Ings on 15th with 29 at Fairburn on 9th increasing to 48 on 13th August thereafter decreasing to 10 by the end of the month.

As Sunk Island and Cherry Cobb are adjacent, likewise Whitton Sands and Blacktoft Sands, it is quite likely that some birds were commuting between locations.

Slightly more records of birds in December than January with 12 at North Duffield on 11th whilst up to six were present at Wheldrake during the last two weeks of the year; three at Ellerton on 30th. Single birds were recorded at Cherry Cobb on 20th and at Tophill Low Res. on 6th and between 14th and 31st. 13 reported from Blacktoft on 7th with up to three present for most of the remainder of the month though only one on 27th as last.

Little coastal movement reported though nine flew south at Spurn Point on 29th June; 17 south on 26th August with 27 south over the Humber there on 8th August; 18 flew south on 27th August before returning to the north; seven flew south off Hornsea on 7th August.

### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Reported from some 35 locations this year though at many only one or two records and stated in all areas to be a poor year. The last being reported at Hay-a-Park on 8th May with the first of the autumn at Beacon Lane Ponds Kilnsea on 21st September. Five birds were at Blacktoft Sands on 18th November with four at Farnham on 27th December. Three were reported from Spurn Point on 9th and 28th October; from Tophill Low Res. on 12th November; at Wath between 17th and 19th February with two birds being recorded at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th October; near Pickering on 4th November and Hall Dike near Huddersfield on 20th and 31st December. Three at Filly Dams on 19th October.

### **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Bred in good numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas with c25 pairs at both Aughton Ings and North Duffield Carrs and healthy populations at Wheldrake Ings; East Cottingwith; Bubwith; Ellerton and along the Pocklington Canal. Elsewhere in the York area confirmed or probable breeding occurred at Howden Common; Lower Wharfe (9+ pairs); Skipwith Common; Kexby; Newton-on-Derwent; Fulford/Middlethorpe Ings (8 pairs) and Strensall Common (7+ pairs). Possible breeding occurred at Broomfleet Ponds; Swinemoor (near Beverley) and Figham (also near Beverley).

In V.C. 63 breeding was evident at some lowland locations and many upland ones and considered to be about normal although sites continue to be drained. In the Doncaster area stated as being scarcer both as a breeding and wintering bird.

No comments received concerning breeding from either V.C. 64 or V.C. 65. V.C. 64 however reported a poor year with lower numbers recorded than for several years.

Numbers during the first three months of the year generally low though 70 were present at Flamborough on 4th and 65 there on 26th January with 75 on 8th February and 25 on 26th. The Lower Derwent reported their highest counts on exposed ice free areas during this month with 80+ at Bubwith Bridge on 7th; 64 at Wheldrake Ings on 9th; 25 at North Duffield on 18th and 86 at Wheldrake on 20th. Up to 43 were recorded at Fairburn Ings during January.

Slightly higher numbers reported during the latter months of the year with up to 76 at Fairburn Ings during late September; 93 during October decreasing to only 11 during December. Tophill Low Res. had 61 on 24th August increasing to 88 on 6th September, between 110 and 120 from 13th to 21st September thence 75 on 24th and 65 on 28th decreasing to 43 on 3rd October thereafter low double figures to the end of the year. 90 at Blacktoft Sands on 30th August with up to 60 during September and 44 during

October. 80 at Wath Ings on 4th and 10th October with 60 on many other days during this month; 60 at Thorpe Marsh on 7th November.

**Dowitcher Sp** *Limnodromus sp*

A single bird flew south over the Humber shore at Spurn Point before crossing over to the sea and continuing south on 26th August. The views obtained were brief and thus specific identification was not possible.

Rejected by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, but accepted by the YNU.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Suffered a very poor breeding season in the Leeds area with confirmed breeding at only one site otherwise in V.C. 64 reported to be no apparent change in status. In the Pocklington area reported as a very good breeding population in the forest. Reported as breeding or possibly at some 25 locations in V.C. 63; at four (away from the Pocklington area) in V.C. 62 though no doubt an under estimation; in V.C. 61, at four locations all in the western part of the V.C.

Numbers during the early months were low with seven near Winestead on 12th January; nine at Hornsea Mere on 13th February; at least seven at Sunk Island Battery on 9th February; eight at Flamborough on 16th March.

No autumnal influx noted along the coast though 13 at Flamborough on 14th November. Some 40 birds were shot at Parlington Park, V.C. 64 during the autumn thus indicating an influx into that area.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Birds were present along the Lower Derwent from early April to mid May but owing to the floods in late April breeding did not take place. The first pair arrived on 6th April after which three sites held single displaying birds between 16th and 18th with a single bird displaying on 15th May. Peak numbers along the Derwent were seven on 29th April and the following day with 10 on 5th May and 17 on 7th.

Birds were reported from Cherry Cobb during all months except November with six present on both 5th and 26th January, one to two on three days during February; seven on 23rd March; up to two during April except 16 on 27th, a single on 18th May; two on 15th June; eight on 6th July, four on 24th with five on 24th August; 12 on 14th September with nine on 21st; 10 on 18th October with the only record during the last two months being five on 14th December.

Nine flew west at Whitton Sands on 5th July with several records from Sunk Island where three were present on 2nd March; four on 3rd May; two (also at Cherry Cobb) on 15th June; four on 27th September and four on 7th December. Four at Easington on 10th September.

In V.C. 63 most of the records came from Blacktoft Sands with five flying west on 29th April followed by three to the west on 3rd; 4th and 5th May; four on 8th and 13th and single on 12th. One on 15th June thence almost daily during July and August with nine on 12th July; 10 on 23rd July; seven on 18th and 19th August; four on 8th September. Five flew southwest over Wath Ings on 6th May with two to the same direction there on 4th July. Five southwest there on 21st July. Single birds there and at Thrybergh and Thorpe Marsh during August.

The Rother Valley Country Park reported single birds on 18th April and from 20th to 23rd April with two on 17th July. Single birds at Eastwood (Rotherham) on 20th May and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd July.

In V.C. 64 reported from six locations during the spring between 15th March and 28th May invariably single birds though four were at Fairburn Ings on 26th April, and during autumn from five locations between 7th July and 25th August with seven at Fairburn on 17th July and nine on 19th. Four at Gouthwaite on 7th July.

In V.C. 65, four were at Nosterfield on 6th May with single birds at Masham on 3rd May; Jervaux on 27th to 29th April and two there on 25th.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Coastal passage was light with the highest count being recorded on 19th August when 32 flew south at Hornsea and 43 south at Spurn Point. At this latter location 182 were seen to leave to the east on 2nd May.

Numbers present on the Humber at Spurn were normal with up to 54 during the first few days of May otherwise during the early months only occasionally low double figure counts. The highest counts during the latter months of the year being 32 on 17th October with 26 on 28th and 30 on 20th November. At Sunk Island 72 were reported on 12th January; 88 on 2nd March; 90 on April 6th whilst at the end of the year, 62 were recorded on 2nd November; 105 on 9th November and 86 on 28th December.

As usual, the highest numbers along the estuary were reported from Cherry Cobb with up to 410 present during January; an influx occurred during early February with 905 reported on 2nd declining to 640 by 23rd and 210 on 16th March, that number being maintained until 13th April; 95 recorded on 27th April with less than 60 in May. Up to 32 during June and July with a similar number during August thereafter an increase to 86 on 14th September with 97 on 11th October; 295 on 22nd November and up to 220 during December. Smaller numbers usually of the order of one to five birds were reported not infrequently from Whitton Sands and at Blacktoft Sands.

Westerly movement along the Humber was reported from both Whitton and Blacktoft with three at the former on 3rd June and two at the latter on 27th June. 25 flew west at Cherry Cobb on 6th July with 26 in the same direction at Whitton Sands on the following day and 17 at Blacktoft. 36 passed Blacktoft on 14th July with 12 at Whitton Sands on 19th when 20 were off Blacktoft. The following day 46 passed Whitton Sands with 14 on 21st and 12 on 23rd whilst 25 flew past Blacktoft on 31st. Smaller numbers were reported from both locations during August with up to four on several days during September.

A flock of 54 flew east over Tophill Low Res. on 16th March whilst two were reported there on 15th August. Single birds were reported from Wheldrake on 1st April with a second bird there on 3rd May and one at Aughton on 5th.

Inland in V.C. 63; single birds were reported from Thorpe Marsh on 22nd April; Horbury Wyke on 26th May; Pugney's on 17th July; Winterset Res. on 12th August; Thrybergh on 25th September; Thorpe Marsh on 5th September whilst on 17th July nine flew westwards over Pugney's.

In V.C. 64 the majority of the records came from Fairburn Ings with a single bird on 20th March thence on seven days in May with five on 5th; singles on 12th and 14th August with four on 30th. Two were reported from the Ribble Valley on 2nd May and a single bird there on 5th whilst one was at Mickletown Ings on 29th July.

Two at Thornton Steward on 10th January and four at Nosterfield on 26th August were the only reports from V.C. 65.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A very early bird at Scalby Mills on 19th March thereafter two at Wheldrake Ings on 4th April followed by a further two at the same location on 6th and a single bird over Morley on the same date. The next were singles at Kilnsea and Wheldrake on 13th followed by birds at Spurn and Flamborough on 14th. Thereafter became quite widespread in small numbers with five at Nosterfield on 16th and five at Fairburn Ings on 17th. 12 on 1st May along the Lower Derwent with 13 the following day and 10 on 3rd. 11 at Spurn on 7th.

Autumn passage commenced in early July with 12 to 15 over Adel, Leeds. Thereafter 16 off Flamborough on 13th whilst 28 had been reported from Spurn on 10th and 30 at Hornsea on 12th. Good numbers were reported moving south at the end of the month with 44 at Flamborough on 30th; 88 at Spurn on 31st whilst 50 passed Grimston on the same date. 23 at Flamborough on 1st August; 24 at Filey and 104 at Spurn on 2nd; 28 at Filey on 3rd; 62 at Flamborough on 5th when 45 flew south at Hornsea; 72+ in off the sea at Spurn on 9th with 31 to the south at Hornsea on 12th. 39 at Filey on 19th.

Small numbers during September with four at Flamborough on 3rd and five at Cherry Cobb on 8th. Along the coast the last birds were singles at Spurn on 21st September and Flamborough on 25th whilst one at Riccall on 24th was one of the latest ever in the York area. The last of the year being two over Bardsey near Leeds on 15th October.

Inland in V.C. 63, seven were reported from Broomhill on 7th May with eight northwest over Thrybergh the same day. Higher numbers during the autumn with 19 south over Thrybergh on 7th August; 16 southwest there on 12th and 21 southwest over Wath on 14th; 16 over Winterset on 2nd; 17 over Pebley Pond on 21st and ten at White Holme Res. on 3rd whilst 11 flew west at Blacktoft on 14th August.

Only single birds in V.C. 65 with very small numbers reported from V.C. 64.

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Breeding was considered to have been normal with some 40 pairs in the Lower Derwent and smaller numbers elsewhere in the York recording area. No numbers were reported from the higher ground of the County.

Good numbers along the Humber with c900 at Sunk Island on 5th April; 740 on 24th August and 700 on 4th October. Nearby at Cherry Cobb 1200+ were recorded on 26th January with monthly maximum of 650 during February and 800 in March; 1990 on 6th April decreasing to 900 by 13th. Up to 185 during May; 137 on 8th June increasing to 284 on 15th and 293 on 26th. A large influx during early July gave 990 on 6th and 1750 on 13th. No further full counts were undertaken until 24th August when 2750 were recorded; 2100 on 21st September decreasing to 1300+ on 11th October and 1300 on 14th December.

Westerly movement along the Humber was noted at Whitton Sands and Blacktoft with 1068 birds being counted at the latter between 13th June and 8th September with 48 on 28th June; 149 on 7th July; 114 on 12th July and 57 on 12th August whilst at Whitton Sands 50 on 4th July; 144 on 7th; 150 on 17th September.

221 were at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd January with 212 there on 20th March and 242 on 24th November whilst 500+ roosted at Wensley/Leyburn during November. 350+ gathered on Askwith/Denton Moors after breeding prior to departure to the coast. 120+ at Wheldrake Ings on 29th December.

Two very pale birds at Flamborough on 4th August showed the characteristics of the eastern race *N.a. orientalis* (PAL).

### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

A single bird at Broomfleet Ponds on 8th January was the only winter record (TAE). Thereafter single birds were reported from Fairburn Ings on 8th, 15th and 21st March with one at Candy Farm (Doncaster area) on 17th March. More widespread during April with five at the Rother Valley Country Park on 6th and four on 12th with a single from 18th to 23rd. Elsewhere, single birds at Spurn Point on 19th and 24th; Whitton Sands on 19th, 26th and 29th; Blacktoft Sands on 30th; Skipton S.W. on 21st. Sunk Island on 19th; Ozendyke Ings (River Wharfe) on 24th and Thrybergh on 23rd.

During May, light passage at many locations with three at Thorpe Marsh on 2nd; two at Kilnsea on 15th and single birds at a further 12 locations.

The first returning birds at Blacktoft Sands on 11th June with three there the following day, nine on 15th decreasing to two on 18th with a single bird present from 22nd to 31st July. A single at Cherry Cobb on 26th June, at Flamborough on 16th and 17th; Fairburn Ings on 19th and 22nd and the Ribble Valley on 21st. Few during July with two at Whitton Sands on 21st.

The majority of birds being reported during August with one to three at some 18 locations; higher counts were reported from Tophill Low Res. where four were present on 12th and between five and seven from 13th to 23rd with at least 11 on 22nd and nine

on 23rd thereafter up to four to the end of the month. Six at Blacktoft Sands on 12th, six south offshore at Hornsea on 15th; four at Old Denaby on 16th and four at Wath Ings on 19th whilst four at Wentworth on 12th. Up to four at Spurn during the last week of the month with eight on 28th; five at Flamborough on 26th.

Still quite widespread during September though slightly smaller numbers with up to three at Tophill Low Res. until 15th; three at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 9th and four there on 10th and 11th; up to three at Spurn until 19th with six or seven on 20th to 22nd; six at Blacktoft Sands on 13th and 14th. Two at Pugney's on 12th and two at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th.

October records came from Blacktoft Sands with up to three during the month; Whitton Sands with two on 3rd; up to two at Spurn Point until 11th with six there on 8th then single birds there except for two on 31st. Single at Sunk Island on 5th.

A single bird remained at Blacktoft Sands during November and December.

### **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Bred in apparently normal numbers in the Lower Derwent with 15 pairs on North Duffield Carrs; 15 at Aughton Ings. Also in the York area at Fulford/Middlethorpe Ings with five pairs and one to two pairs at Kexby, Bolton Percy Ings, Acaster Malbis and Wharfe Ings.

Bred at Swinemoor (Beverley), at least one pair with possibly three whilst at Cherry Cobb considered to have bred though not proven.

Breeding took place on the higher ground of V.C. 63 with six pairs on Withens Moor near Halifax; stated as sparse in the Huddersfield area; and at one site in both the Bradford and Sheffield areas. On the lower ground successfully bred at two locations in the Sheffield area, at Pugney's with two pairs and at Thorpe Marsh with three pairs.

Numbers said to be down in the usual breeding areas of V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 65 breeding was recorded at Feldon; Bellerby and Arkengarthdale.

Recorded almost daily at Spurn Point with the exception of a few days in May and June with up to 200 during January falling to 130 in February and 780 in March, on 26th being the highest count of the year. 550 during April thence decreasing to 100 by 1st May. 41 on 27th June being the maximum for that month thereafter increasing again to 205 on 19th July. 520 on 19th August and 750 on 21st September as those month's maxima after which up to 440 during the remainder of the year. A similar pattern though with higher numbers at Cherry Cobb where 350 were reported on 5th January falling during February to 180 on 2nd as a result of harsh weather but increasing again to 310 by 16th. 600 on 16th March; 790 on 13th April decreasing to 230 on 27th thence down to low double figures until late June. 130 on 26th June with 235 on 6th July; 330 on 13th and 680 on 24th. 1600 recorded on 24th August and 2250 on 21st September. Few counts conducted during the latter months of the year with 600+ on 18th October and 400 during December. Elsewhere along the Humber, at Sunk Island, 150 on 15th February; 350 on 19th August; 330 on 23rd; 450 on 25th and 350 on 2nd November. 140 at Whitton Sands on 3rd October with up to 60 at Blacktoft Sands during July; 80 in August and 182 during September on 21st.

Along the coast c100 at Cornelian Bay on 5th January with 72 at Staithes on 27th March and 92 at Long Nab on 13th August. 160 at Filey on 2nd January and up to 104 there during December. 90 at Flamborough on 1st January with 70 on 19th; 54 on 31st March; 54 on 27th August and 55 on 28th December.

Southerly passage noted offshore at Hornsea and Spurn with 23 on 7th and 22 on 15th and 16th at the former whilst at the latter, 48 on 29th July and 69 on 16th August.

56 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th January with between 65 and 74 there during the last three weeks of the year. Higher than usual numbers along the Lower Derwent during January with 70 between North Duffield and Bubwith on 20th; 60 at Aughton the following day. Small numbers during February with 20 at North Duffield on 6th. 80+ at Bubwith/Ellerton on 19th March.

Up to 24 at Fairburn Ings during January and February with 18 at Swillington on 1st January; 42 at Fairburn Ings on 19th April was the spring peak whilst at other locations

in V.C. 64 numbers rarely reached 12. 27 at Wath Ings on 23rd March and 26 there on 13th April

Post breeding numbers of 21 on 6th June at Gouthwaite and 24 there on 17th with up to 16 at Fairburn Ings during the middle of the month. 23 at Nosterfield on 17th.

Up to 21 at Fairburn Ings during November with 24 during December whilst 18 at Swillington on 26th December.

### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird at Fairburn Ings during January and February with up to two during March. Single at Wath Ings on 5th January with two at Bubwith on 11th. Single at Pugney's on 12th March.

Spring passage was light with generally one to three birds at some 25 locations though four at Wheldrake Ings on 28th April with five there from 2nd to 5th May.

Returning birds were reported from mid June with generally single birds reported though by the end of the month four were at Blacktoft Sands on 28th; four at Stone Creek on 30th and three at Winterset Res. on the same day. With the exception of Easington Lagoons/Kilnsea Ponds and Blacktoft Sands few were reported during July. At the former two were recorded on 26th with five on 28th and three on 30th whilst at Blacktoft eight were present on 1st increasing to nine on the 3rd and 11 on 17th.

August saw the highest numbers with 14 at Blacktoft on 9th, 12 still being present there on 19th with eight on 28th. Eight at Mickletown Ings on 14th whilst at nearby Fairburn up to seven were reported during the month. Nine at Easington/Kilnsea on 8th with seven on 9th and eight again on 10th; five there on 22nd and 24th. Five at Wheldrake Ings on 11th and up to five at Wath Ings during most of the month; five at Winterset Res. on 23rd.

Tophill Low Res. eclipsed all locations with very high numbers throughout the month gathering on the drained 'D' reservoir. Nine were recorded on 10th with between 13 and 29 from 11th to 21st thence 14 to 20 from 21st to end of the month. Maxima being 29 on 20th and 28 on 24th. These counts have only been bettered by the 40 at Cherry Cobb on 2nd September 1969 and 30 (total flying south) at Spurn on 21st August 1970.

Numbers at Tophill Low Res. decreased to 20 by 3rd September, to seven by the 8th with the last bird on 12th. Five were at Spurn on 26th, up to five at Blacktoft during the early part of the month whilst Fairburn Ings had four during the month. Up to five at Bolton-on-Swale during August and September.

Reported during October from Whitton Sands with a single bird on 11th, regularly at Sunk Island to 12th; two all month at Fairburn Ings and on most days at Blacktoft until 26th. Singles at Wath on most days to 15th; at Winterset on 2nd and Old Denaby on 12th.

Single at Sandall Beat on 18th November with three present at Fairburn throughout the month increasing to four from 8th to 16th December and one remaining to the end of the year. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 8th December with a single bird there on 26th and what was possibly the same bird at East Cottingham the following day.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

A single adult at the newly formed Dams Nature Reserve at Filey on 26th July (PMS et al). The fourth county record.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Wintering birds were reported from Bolton-on-Swale and Strensall Common on 4th January; from Fairburn Ings on 5th; Hornsea on 16th with two at Tophill Low Res. on 26th whilst single birds at Thorpe Marsh; Denaby Ings; Carcroft; Wath/Broomhill during January with birds at the last location throughout February also. During February, two birds at Denaby on 8th with singles at Figham (Beverley) on 7th and 21st; at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd and Knostrop S.F. on 25th and 26th.

Single birds were reported during March from Figam and Kilnhurst on 2nd; Pocklington S.W. on 7th; Denaby and Thorpe Marsh on 8th; Fairburn Ings on 10th; Melbourne on 23rd; Catwick G.P. on 28th and Tophill Low Res. on 30th.

More widespread during April and May although in small numbers with three at Flamborough on 19th April and up to three at Tophill Low Res. from early April to mid May. A similar pattern throughout June though increasing in numbers towards the end of the month with seven at Fairburn Ings on 28th; nine at Wath on 27th; 10 at Tophill Low Res. on 29th and four at Blacktoft on 27th.

A further increase in numbers during July with Wath Ings holding between 10 and 15 throughout the month with maximum of 16 on 3rd, 4th and 18th whilst at Tophill Low Res. a similar number of birds throughout the month. 11 were reported from Fairburn Ings on 4th; eight at Blacktoft Sands on the same date whilst nine were at Melbourne on 9th and 12th. Five flew north off shore at Hornsea on 19th.

August, as usual, saw the highest numbers of the year with Wath Ings having some 20 birds present all month with the high count of 30 on 10th. Up to 13 at Blacktoft Sands; 20 at Fairburn Ings on 14th, nine at Keswick Fitts on 16th; Filey had at least eight on 6th with possibly as many as 12 that day being present. Six at Melbourne on 17th and five at Dewsbury S.W. on 28th; at Redmires on 16th and Figam on 17th. Seven at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th the highest count from V.C. 65. Numbers reported from the drained 'D' reservoir at Tophill Low Res. eclipsed any ever reported in Yorkshire with 27 present on 6th August increasing to 36 by 10th and 54 on 13th with a further increase to 64 on 15th, double the previous highest county record. However on 19th, a series of counts gave a total of some 90 birds thereafter decreasing to 51 on 22nd and 32 by 30th.

In September Wath Ings held up to eight during most of the month with a maximum count of 14 on 12th whilst at Tophill Low Res. 32 still present on 2nd slowly declining to 13 on 12th and six by the end of the month. One to three birds at several locations during the early part of the month with few being reported by the end. October saw four birds at Melbourne on 7th with two at Blacktoft on 15th; up to five at Tophill Low Res. until 28th; six at Wath Ings on 1st and 15th with four at Thorpe Marsh on 21st.

One to two at Fairburn Ings during November and Knostrop S.F. with three there on 28th; four at Melbourne on 10th; two at Wath Ings on 15th and 17th; four at Burghy Banks on 27th. Three at Wath on 14th December with a single bird at Thorpe Marsh on 10th and 15th. Tophill Low Res. had singles on 13th and 17th Figam single birds on 14th, 26th and 28th though possibly two on this last date. Single bird at Stockton-on-the-Forest on 18th and 26th with birds at Fairburn Ings and Knostrop S.F. remaining from November into this month.

### **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Two flying west at Sunk Island on 3rd May were the first of the year followed by a single bird at Fairburn on 4th. Two at Blacktoft Sands on 6th with two at Aughton on the same day one of which remained until the 8th. Single in the Ribble Valley on 14th with two at Flamborough on 18th and a single south at Spurn on 25th. A single at North Duffell on 10th June.

Single birds at Pugney's on 28th June; Ardsley on 5th July and Horbury Wyke on 6th. Most records came during August with five flying north over Spurn Point on 7th; three at Flamborough on 27th; two at Tophill Low Res. on the last three days of the month. Two at Blacktoft on 11th with one remaining until 24th. Single at Fairburn from 16th to 2nd September with two there on 19th; two at Filey on 14th remaining until 16th; two at Flamborough on 28th with single birds during the month at Wheldrake Ings; Strensall Common; Masham G.P.; Kilnsea; Sunk Island; Frickley and Staintondale.

One to two at Tophill Low Res. during September until 14th with a single bird there on 20th whilst at Spurn Point single birds were recorded between 2nd and 15th with one on 18th and 20th; at Wath Ings on 12th and Tudworth the following day. A single bird at Broadstones Res. from 8th to 17th.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

The wintering bird at Riccall was present until 9th February and what may have been a different bird was observed at Roscarrr on 6th January.

A single bird at Doncaster on 4th April with the next at Barlby on 17th; Carthwick Wood on 18th and Fairburn Ings and Nostell on 19th. The main arrival occurred between 21st and 28th April with birds being reported from 25 localities. Four at Hornsea Mere during May being the only location in V.C. 61 to record more than three whilst slightly larger numbers were reported from inland with 20 at Gouthwaite Res. on 11th May.

Breeding apparently normal with the possibility of a pair at Castle Howard.

Gouthwaite Res. produced the highest counts of the year with 54 on 6th and 13th July and 53 on 3rd August; 26 at Hornsea Mere on 26th August whilst at Tophill Low Res. up to eight during the middle of the month, several days with up to 12 and maximum count of 14 on 17th August. 12+ at White Holme Res. on 30th June; 10+ at Redmires on 17th July; 12 at Riccall on 8th and 9th August with nine at Wath Ings on 3rd August and at Ringstone Edge Res. on 27th July. 11 at Spurn Point on 11th August with 10 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 27th August and the same number at Whitton Sands on 19th.

Few birds into September with late records in October from Patrington Haven on 2nd; Burniston on 3rd; Leighton Res. on 8th; High Batts on 12th and Methley on 25th. The last reported were two birds at Burghy Banks on 26th November.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Fewer than usual reported along the coast during the early months with the exception of 200+ at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 5th January. Filey had monthly maxima of 63 in January; 35 in February and 167 in March whilst at Spurn during these same three months maxima were 70 on 2nd; 35 on 2nd and 67 on 27th. Slight increase in numbers during spring with 150 at Spurn on 5th April whilst 150 were reported as the high during that month at Filey. 120 recorded at Staithes on 27th March. Bridlington Harbour had 183 on 11th January with 101 on 25th; 157 on 22nd February and 122 on 22 March.

Similar numbers during the latter months of the year with 209 at Spurn on 25th August; 180 on 24th September decreasing to 140 on 16th October thence generally below 100 to end of the year. Filey had few until October when over 100 were reported with up to 128 in December whilst at Flamborough small numbers except for 122 on 1st November. 200 at Jackson's Bay on 9th November.

Coastal passage noted at all locations with most at Spurn where 166 flew south on 31st July and 47 on 2nd August. 13 south at Hornsea on 15th August was the most reported there.

Small numbers along the Humber with 23 at Cherry Cobb on 11th May and 14 there on 22nd November and 11 on 20th December. Five flew west at Whitton Sands on 23rd July.

Four at Blacktoft Sands on 27th July whilst inland one to three birds at some 30 locations during April/May and July to September. Higher counts of seven at Fairburn on 4th May and five at Wath Ings on 29th July.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

A single immature at Flamborough on 27th and 28th August (PAL: DGH et al).

Two immatures at Tophill Low Res. on 28th (DL) were joined by a third on 29th remaining until 1st September with one bird the following day (GED: RL et al).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Single birds at Flamborough on 12th January (JCL); Scarborough on 2nd February (RHA): at Whitby on several days from 9th February until 27th (many obs); at Filey on 25th February (PJD) and again on 2nd March: at Flamborough on 27th May (PAL) and 1st November (PAL: DIMW) with one at Spurn on 2nd November.

An unidentified phalarope at Flamborough on 13th September was probably this species.

### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Two which flew south at Flamborough on 3rd January were also reported at Spurn with a single bird at Filey on 18th. Singles at Flamborough on 1st; 4th; 16th and 23rd February; at Filey on 8th March, 7th April and 5th May with a single at Flamborough on 26th May. 34 were recorded at Flamborough during June with nine on 6th; a very high count of 21 on 7th with two on the 8th. A single at Hornsea on 5th June.

32 off Flamborough in July with five on 12th and 17th; four on 27th and six on the 30th whilst a single bird off Hornsea on 25th. Birds were recorded on 22 days during August at both Flamborough and Hornsea; on six days at Filey and seven at Spurn. 12 at Hornsea on 10th; 10 at Flamborough on 18th with 18 there the following day when 21 flew south at Hornsea. 25 at Flamborough on 20th with 33 at Hornsea whilst 11 at Flamborough on 21st. On the 22nd 44 were recorded at Flamborough, 33 at Hornsea and 26 off Grimston. 23 off Hornsea on 23rd; 25 at Flamborough on 25th with 16 off Hornsea the following day and five at Spurn Point. 11 at Hornsea on 27th and 17 at Flamborough on 31st.

September saw more birds off Flamborough though far fewer at Hornsea with 428 at the former; only one day during the month producing a blank day whilst only 37 were recorded off Hornsea, partially due to lack of observations. 21 reported at Flamborough on 3rd with 17 south off Scarborough the same day and five off Hornsea. 10 off Hornsea on 4th when 29 were reported from Flamborough; 36 at Flamborough on 7th with 21 there on the 10th; 29 on 11th; 25 on 12th; 70 on 13th; 34 on 14th and 15 on 25th. Five were at Hornsea on 6th September and six on 9th.

The peak day of passage in October was the 4th with 48 at Flamborough and 16 off Hornsea; the former location reporting 14 on 23rd; 22 on 24th and 24 on 26th.

56 flew mainly south off Flamborough on 1st November on which day Filey had by far their best movement with two north and 27 south whilst at Hornsea 10 flew south. The following day 10 were off Flamborough with single birds at both Filey and Hornsea, these two locations reporting their last birds of the year on this day as were the two birds flying north at Spurn. Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 3rd; 5th; 12th and 22nd. Three at Flamborough on 7th December.

### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single flew south at Spurn Point on 1st January; a single at Barmston on 2nd with further single birds to the west at Spurn on 29th March; 19th April; to the north on 8th May; south on 18th and north on 30th. Single to the north at Filey on 12th May with two north at Hornsea on 25th. Recorded on five days at Spurn during June with two on 6th; on five days at Flamborough with 10 on 6th; 15 the following day and four on 21st. Slightly more at Flamborough during July with five on 19th and 25th and 10 on 30th on which date four were also reported from Spurn Point.

Almost daily at all coastal locations during August with up to 78 at Hornsea during the first three weeks and up to 40 at Spurn to 16th. The first large count being 163 off Flamborough on 20th whilst on 22nd 357 were recorded off Filey; 457 at Flamborough; 382 at Hornsea; 108 off Grimston and 290 at Spurn. 178 at Flamborough on 23rd, 628 there on 24th with 107 off Filey; only 48 off Hornsea but 242 at Grimston. 234 at Flamborough on 25th with 120 at Hornsea on 26th. The 27th produced 157 at Filey; 167 at Flamborough and 53 off Hornsea. 100 at Flamborough on 29th; 120 on 30th and 208 there on 31st.

Daily at Flamborough during September; almost daily at Spurn though reduced observation at Hornsea. The 3rd produced 402 at Hornsea; 370 at Spurn though surprisingly only 110 at Flamborough in contrast to 304 to the south off Scarborough in just over two hours with Filey also having a few this day; the peak count for the month there being 33. This was the last big count along the coast except for at Flamborough where 107 were recorded on 4th and 6th; 139 on 7th; 112 on 10th; 203 on 11th; 167 on 13th; 113 on 14th.

Few during October with 11 being the highest count at Filey during the month and 17 at Spurn though recorded almost daily at the latter location. Recorded on 17 days

at Flamborough with 45 on 4th; 34 on 23rd and 76 on 25th on which date 52 flew south at Staithes.

November 1st produced large numbers for so late a date in the year with 17 at Hornsea; 20 at Flamborough; 24 at Filey and 42 at Spurn; in addition to these birds at Spurn a further 53 skuas were reported flying south too far out for positive identification. Four at Spurn on 2nd with single birds there on 3rd; 13th; 14th and 21st whilst at Flamborough single birds were recorded on 3rd and 16th.

Single birds off Kilnsea on 7th December and at Filey on 18th.

Small numbers reported along the estuary with nine to the west at Sunk Island on 31st August when one also flew east there. One east at Saltend on 11th August and four west at Whitton Sands on 15th September. Even further upstream at Blacktoft Sands, single birds were reported on 4th May; 22nd June; 5th July; 11th and 28th August.

Inland a single bird flew southeast over the Rother Valley Country Park on 4th May; one west at Thorpe Marsh on 26th August; and a single southwest over Thrybergh on 1st November whilst three unidentified skuas were reported flying south over the last location on 8th August.

### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

For the second successive year the highest total for the county this century has been surpassed, a total of 65 birds being reported from six locations albeit mainly from Flamborough.

The first reported were two adults at Flamborough on 1st June (JCL:PAL) with three more adults there on 6th; an immature on 12th July and an adult on 19th July (PAL:IS:DPH:AMA).

A single bird to the south at Spurn Point on 8th August (JC): an adult at Flamborough on 10th, (PAL *et al*), adult south at Hornsea on 13th (GRB); immature at Flamborough on 16th with two immatures there on 17th; an immature and juvenile on 18th, another immature on 19th with an adult, two immatures and a juvenile on 20th (PAL:NAP:JCL) on which date two adults were reported from Hornsea (GRB). A single juvenile at Flamborough on 22nd (PAL:MJP) with two adults, an immature and a juvenile there on 25th (IS:PAL:AMA:DPH). A juvenile south there on 27th (PAL:IS) with an adult at Filey on this date (GT). Single immature at Flamborough on 28th with an adult at Filey on 29th (ES *et al*) when four adults were reported from Flamborough (PAL). Two adults and two immatures at Flamborough on 30th with an adult at Bempton flying northwest on the same day (PAL *et al* MD). Single adult at Flamborough on 31st August (AMA).

In September a single juvenile to the north at Hornsea on 5th (WFC) whilst at Flamborough on the same date an immature was recorded (PAL). Adult at Hornsea on 6th (GRB); two juveniles at Flamborough on 7th (PAL:AMA), immature on 8th at Flamborough, an adult and two juveniles there on 9th, an immature on 10th, adult on 13th and 14th with an immature on 15th (PAL:JCL:AMA:DPH) on which day an adult flew west at Whitton Sands (TAE). A juvenile at Flamborough on 16th, adult on 22nd (PAL).

October saw a juvenile at Flamborough on 4th (AMA:DPH:JCL) with an immature at Spurn Point on 14th (NF); single juveniles at Flamborough on 19th and 24th (PAL:JCL). Two adults to the south off Hornsea on 25th (GRB) with single juveniles at Flamborough on 29th and 1st November (PAL:DIMW).

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

A very good year particularly at Flamborough where observers reported the best year on record.

A single bird flew south at Scarborough on 2nd January with singles at Hornsea on 23rd February; at Flamborough on 1st April; Spurn on 5th; Filey on 7th and Spurn on 23rd. Single birds at Spurn on 26th May; at Flamborough on 30th and 31st with two at Filey on 30th. Generally single birds at Bempton; Filey; Hornsea and Spurn on several

days during June though higher numbers at Flamborough with 11 there on 6th and 14 on 7th. Five at Hornsea on 12th July with 19 at Flamborough on the same day and 29 there on 13th with 16 on 26th.

August brought more records with small numbers being reported almost daily from most coastal watchpoints. Eight at Spurn Point on 27th was the monthly peak there whilst at Filey 19 flew north on 26th. Hornsea had 13 on 10th when Flamborough had 26, this latter location having 21 on 19th and 40 on 22nd. 51 at Flamborough on 23rd with 18 off Hornsea whilst Flamborough then recorded 41 on 24th; 31 on 25th; 43 on 27th and 27 on the 31st.

Less reported through September with no more than five on any one day at Filey; maximum count of 11 at Spurn on 24th, only one to two at Hornsea except for 20 on 3rd on which date 23 flew south off Scarborough though no report for that day from Flamborough where however 27 were recorded on the 4th; 28 on 11th; 20 on 14th and 17 on 16th.

Heavy passage reported in October from Flamborough with good numbers at Spurn in contrast to a quiet month at Filey and small numbers at Hornsea. Eight at Hornsea on 4th with up to eight at Spurn during the first three weeks. 40 off Flamborough on 4th with 52 there on 5th. 140 there on 24th; 116 on 25th and 123 on 26th when 22 were reported from Filey and 94 at Spurn Point. 25 flew north at Spurn on 27th.

The heaviest passage of the year took place on 1st November with 133 to the south at Filey (the highest count ever there); 234 at Flamborough (the highest count ever for Yorkshire) and 72 off Spurn though only 12 reported from Hornsea. 49 at Flamborough on 2nd with 19 at Hornsea and 32 at Spurn thereafter small numbers at all locations with birds being reported on 6 days in December at Flamborough, six on 21st being the maximum; single birds at Hornsea on 15th and 26th; two at Spurn on 20th with a single there on 22nd and "one to two" at Filey until the last on 20th.

The only records away from the coast were from Sunk Island with two east there on 4th October, a single bird east on 5th October and two west on 22nd November.

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

A single adult flew north at Spurn on 12th February with one south there on 31st August; an adult over the Humber on 4th October with another adult offshore on 19th. What was probably the adult of 4th plus a second adult on 31st and finally a first winter bird on 5th November.

At Hornsea a single adult was present on the promenade from 1st January daily until 2nd February with a second winter bird present on 8th and 25th. An adult there on 20th March with another on 29th July. Two adults together on 11th October and present until 2nd November with one present from then until end of the year. A single adult at Hornsea Mere on 4th January was no doubt the resident bird from the sea front.

A single adult at Bridlington on 20th March with single birds at Flamborough on 27th August and a first winter bird on 8th October. Filey recorded an adult on 27th January, possibly a different bird on 3rd; 7th and 18th April with a first winter bird on 8th November.

A single first year bird at Scalby Mills on 30th September was the only record from the coast north of Filey.

Along the Humber a first summer bird reported from Sunk Island on 8th June with a similar plumaged individual at Broomfleet Ponds on 25th June.

An adult which flew south after bathing at Tophill Low Res. on 30th September was colour ringed though at present the origins are unknown.

A first summer bird at North Duffield Carrs on 1st and 2nd May was observed also at Bubwith on 6th whilst one moulting from second summer to adult winter was observed on the River Ouse at Riccall on 8th August.

In V.C. 63, a single adult flew south at Wath Ings on 23rd February whilst a first winter bird was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd and 24th March. A first summer bird at Thrybergh on 23rd April with a summer plumaged adult at Thorpe Marsh on 27th July; a juvenile moulting to first winter at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th October with

another similarly plumaged bird there on 29th and 30th when a first winter bird was also present.

V.C. 64, an adult at Eccup Res. on 26th January with other adults present there on 15th and 16th March; on 1st November and 14th and 20th December. An adult at Fairburn Ings on 18th and 23rd February, a second winter bird there on 28th February; a first summer bird on 17th May with an adult flying southwest over Esholt S.W. on 23rd November.

An adult was at Bolton-on-Swale from early January to 11th March and presumably the same bird returning on 15th November and remaining to the end of the year. A second adult in V.C. 65 at Thornton Steward on 25th November and 18th December.

### **Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

A record year along the coast with unusual numbers during the latter part of October at Spurn and Flamborough.

Few reported during January with single birds at Filey on three days; at Hornsea on 1st; Scarborough on 12th and two at Spurn on 2nd. Small numbers during February and March though 12 at Hornsea on 1st and 2nd February. Few throughout April and into May until an influx towards the third week of the month though an adult with striking pink underpants was seen to persistently attempt to settle amongst the Black-headed Gulls at the Lower Derwent colony.

11 were present at Hornsea Mere on 21st May increasing to 17 on 28th with between 13 and 15 at Tophill Low Res. from 25th to 30th May decreasing to six on 31st and four on 3rd and 6th June.

Recorded at Hornsea Mere from 4th July with 37 birds present increasing to 41 by 8th; 48 on 20th and 69 on 29th. Further increases during August to 85 on the 2nd; 98 on 5th; 125 on 12th though only 84 on 21st thence 114 on 23rd. 133 on 26th; 180 on 27th and 184 on 28th, this being the highest count ever at this location, with a sudden decrease to 78 the following day and 49 on 30th and further decreasing to 19 by 11th September and four on 20th thereafter single birds on 8th October and 1st November.

A similar pattern with birds over the sea at Hornsea, no doubt some commuting to the Mere. Eight were reported on 12th July with four the following day then three on 17th increasing to 14 on 19th fluctuating to 26th when 32 were recorded; 60 on 27th with 85 on 1st August. Numbers then steadily rose to 120 on 19th August; 138 on 24th; 172 on 26th; 223 on 27th; 260 on 28th 274 on 29th thence a decrease to 160 on 30th and 60 the following day. 128 on 3rd September and 160 on 8th were isolated peaks with generally between 30 and 60 present. Fluctuating numbers during October with 95 on the sea whilst a further 60 flew south on 4th; 191 to the south on 25th thereafter 28 south on 27th October was the highest count except for 46 south on 15th December.

Spurn Point recorded small numbers regularly during August and September with eight to north on 22nd September; nine on 28th and one to eight during October to 19th except 15 on 7th thence a record period for this location between the 21st October and 1st November with 94 on 21st; 256 on 22nd; 91 on 23rd; 659 on 24th; 51 on 25th; 60 on 26th; six on 27th; 101 on 28th; 139+ on 29th; 142+ on 30th; 82 on 31st and 105+ on 1st November.

Numbers off shore at Flamborough were normal until mid September with 48 on 25th August as the highest count. Large numbers were reported from the 14th with 671 on 15th; 446 on 16th; 265 on 17th; 119 on 19th; 102 on 20th; 242 on 21st; 124 on 24th; 659 on 25th and 108 on 26th. Numbers continued to be high into October with 176 on 2nd; 300 on 5th; 125 on 11th; 165 on 17th; 43 on 25th then 3082 on 26th – the highest daily count in Yorkshire, after which very few were reported apart from 65 on 1st November and 57 the following day.

Either no observations took place at Filey on the day of the massive movement at Flamborough or the birds were too far out to sea as the highest count during October at Filey was of 36 birds on 27th. 66 on 1st November was the maximum count for the year.

Smaller numbers were reported along the Holderness coast though 65 flew south at Grimston on 14th September and 34 were feeding on the sea at Bridlington on 28th September with 30 at Easington on 29th October.

Very few birds reported to the north of Filey Brigg.

Inland a single bird at Pugney's on 2nd February with one at Eccup on 1st March. Spring passage noted at Fairburn Ings from 27th April with 36 there on 2nd May (a record count for this water) whilst on the same day 14 were reported from Thrybergh – also a very high number for this water. Winterset Res. recorded seven on 18th April with four east at Blacktoft Sands on 4th May. Four at Nosterfield on 3rd and 4th June; two at Pugney's on 8th May and two at Fairburn on 30th and 31st August otherwise single birds at Eccup; Thornton Steward; Wath and Blackmoorfoot during the periods May/June and August to November.

#### **Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*

A single adult at Swinsty Res. on 1st February (KM) both unusual in the date and location.

Single juvenile flew south at Hornsea on 24th August (WFC) with an adult to the northeast at Spurn on 3rd September (SML). Single first winter at Flamborough on 10th September (AMA:PAL:JCL), an adult there on 12th (PAL) with first winter birds on 15th; 18th and 19th September (PAL) whilst on this last date an adult was at Scalby Mills/Scarborough (RNH:RHA) following the unsubstantiated report of one off Scarborough the previous day.

Single adults north at Spurn on 23rd and 24th October whilst two adults flew north at Hornsea on 25th (GRB)

#### **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

An increase in the breeding numbers along the Lower Derwent with 500 pairs at Wheldrake Ings; 350 at Aughton; 60 at North Duffield Carrs and 50 at Ellerton. Elsewhere in the York area 500 pairs at Skipwith Common and at least 47 pairs at Strensall Common. A single pair bred successfully at Easington Lagoons.

In V.C. 63 the colony at Thorpe Marsh had increased to some 250 pairs with attempted breeding at Dewsbury S.F. whilst the Black Moss colony after two bad years was virtually deserted.

Few counts of breeding colonies undertaken in V.C. 64 though 1000 pairs at Upper Barden Res. and 30 pairs on Barden Fell; 400 pairs on Grassington Moor.

No reports received from V.C. 65.

Along the Humber, up to 1000 were present at Sunk Island during the first three months of the year increasing during August to 5000 by the end of that month; 4000 on 6th September thence 8000 on 13th; 6000 on 20th and 8000 on 12th October. Small counts at Cherry Cobb until 1200 on 6th July thereafter increasing to 2000 on 24th July, 3250 on 25th August; 9500 on 14th September 8500 on 27th with up to 3000 during October and 2000 in December. Up to 10000 at Blacktoft Sands during the early and late months of the year.

Inland; 2000 at Tophill Low Res. during January thence decreasing to low double figures during the summer months before increasing to 2500 on 13th August after which numbers fluctuated with 5000 on 23rd September; 6000 on 18th October and 4000 the following day. 6500 on 2nd November, 2400 on 7th, 8000 on 9th, 3000 on 15th with 7000 on 16th thereafter maximum of 3500 on 9th December. 15000 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st March had decreased to 6000 by 23rd. 1800 at Castle Howard on 15th November had increased to between 9-10000 by 27th.

In V.C. 63, 7750 at Thrybergh on 5th January; 7000 on 6th February; 6000 at Broomhead Res. on 11th January; 5000 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th March; 4000 at Pugney's on 9th January, 6000 on 9th February; 10000 on 19th February and 8000 on 2nd March. 10000 at Winterset Res. on 7th January. Smaller numbers during the latter months of the year with 3100 at Thrybergh on 23rd December; 6500 at Broomhead Res. on 28th November; 5000 at Winterset Res. from November to the end of the year;

3000 at Pugney's during the same period and 4000 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st October.

Large roost at Eccup Res. in V.C. 64 with 21000 on 3rd January; 9500 on 6th November and 12500 on 28th December. Fairburn Ings reported 6000 during February with 4500 throughout November and December.

11000 at Bolton-on-Swale was the maximum count during the early months with 18000 during the latter months; 14000 at Leighton Res. on 16th March. An albino reported at Bolton-on-Swale during January/February/March and December with one at Leighton Res. on 16th March whilst leucistic birds were noted at Eccup Res.; Ardsley Res; Nosterfield.

First winter birds colour dyed with yellow/orange were noted from many locations and refer to birds dyed during the autumn of 1985 in Denmark.

53 were picked up dead on the east bank of Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th December, the cause of death being unknown.

### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

One pair attempted to breed in the west of the county.

The largest count along the coast was 2000+ at Jackson's Bay, Scarbrough on 8th February with the large roosts in Filey Bay not being counted. 560 at Flamborough on 4th January with 150 on 2nd April being the only other count over 100 there during the early months. Increased again in September to 224 on 24th thence monthly maxima of 175 on 11th October; 129 on 2nd November and 340 on 14th December. 500 at Hornsea Mere on 5th October with higher numbers at Tophill where 2500 were present on 30th January; few throughout the summer increasing to 590 on 16th September thence 1500 to 2000 from mid October with higher counts of 5000 on 16th November; 5400 on 9th and 7500 on 27th December.

Southerly passage noted along the coast with 649 off Spurn Point on 12th February, 696 the following day and 177 on 14th; 570 south off Hornsea on 12th April; 400 at Spurn on 31st October.

1300 at Thornton Dale on 17th January; 2200 at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd March; 350 at Castle Howard on 12th November increasing to 1000 by 15th. 1200 at Wheldrake on 20th and 1500 on 25th December.

500 at Blacktoft Sands during winter and autumn with maximum count there of 1360 on 1st December. 404 at Thrybergh on 9th January with 753 there on 17th February, this being the highest count at that locality and the highest count for the Doncaster O.S. recording area. 300 at Pugney's on 16th February and 400 at Winterset Res. on 9th December.

The largest numbers were reported from V.C. 64 with 5500 at Eccup Res. on 3rd January decreasing to 1500 by late March increasing with spring passage to 3500 on 4th April. 1000 on 4th September thence 2000 on 5th October, 3500 on 6th November with 5000+ on 28th December. Elsewhere numbers were far lower with 383 at Fairburn Ings in February and 200+ during December. 306 at Lower Barden Res. on 8th February; 400 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 5th April; 500 at Bardsey near Leeds on 19th March and 500 at Compton on 14th September.

550 at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th February with 2000+ on 9th August.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

One pair considered to have bred in the vicinity of Gouthwaite Res. where two recently fledged juveniles were seen on 20th August. No reports received from Barden Moor where breeding took place last year.

Along the coast only small numbers with 14 at Flamborough on 17th May as the highest count there, slightly higher counts at Spurn with between 17 and 33 from 21st to 24th June thence lower numbers though 45 on 19th July and 54 the following day. 49 on 21st August with 39 on 2nd

Only single figure counts in V.C. 63 during the winter months with higher numbers on passage though considered to be below previous years. 40 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on

6th April was the lowest spring peak for many years. 100 at Winterset Res. on 10th April. 250 at Wath Ings on 31st July with 200 on several dates during August and 89 on 24th October; 300 at Pugney's on 24th September, 400 there on 6th October; 224 at Winterset on 28th October and 200 on 19th November. Low numbers at Blacktoft except for 150 during August and September.

49 at Bubwith on 6th May (all second winter birds) was the highest number until 50 flew southeast over Wheldrake on 31st August. A build up at Brighton tip during September with 130 on 6th increasing to 200 on 20th and 300 on 27th and 400 on 11th October as the highest count of the year there.

Less than 20 at any roost during the early months of the year in V.C. 64 with a gradual increase during the spring giving 325+ at Eccup Res. on 17th March and 200 still present there on 11th April. Autumn passage saw numbers increase from early August to October thence decrease to low numbers in the winter. 250 to 300 at Eccup from mid September to late October.

Good numbers in V.C. 65 with 152 at Nosterfield on 21st June; 500 at Masham on 16th August; 1500 there on 27th September. 1260 at Leighton Res. on 12th October decreasing to 605 on 2nd November thence 40 on 12th December. 500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th September.

Birds of the Scandinavian races *L.F. fuscus* or *L.F. intermedius* were reported from many locations particularly along the coast with 10 at Spurn on 26th July; 43 there on 21st August and 21 the following day. 22 at Cherry Cobb on 14th September (21 *intermedius*); four at Thrybergh Res. in February and up to nine at Eccup on 12th September. All other numbers reported inland were of between one and three birds.

### Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

200 pairs were occupying the ledges on the cliffs to the north of Filey Brigg on 14th June. No other comments or details of breeding populations were received. No large movements were reported from Flamborough as in recent years whilst the counts at Filey invariably refer to roost flights; up to 4000 being counted in January and 2400 in December. The only other count of over 1000 being 1314 at Spurn Point on 23rd October most of which were first winter birds. Coastal movement noted with 230 to the south off Hornsea on 12th April and 283 north at Spurn on 19th January.

Along the Humber 1700 were reported from Sunk Island on 1st March with 250 there on 14th March. Inland in V.C. 61; fewer than usual recorded at Tophill Low Res. with 100 on 9th November as the maximum for the year; 500 at Weel tip on 5th January; 660 on 3rd April with 450 the following day increasing to 700 on 6th and 720 on 8th. Hornsea Mere had a maximum of 850 on 1st March and 500 on 16th November. 120 at Wheldrake Ings on 15th January, 100 on 16th with 140 on 21st.

In V.C. 63, Winterset Res. reported 3000 on 6th January and 1000 on 24th September; Blackmoorfoot Res. had 531 on 25th January and 242 on 25th December. Thrybergh recorded 490 on 30th January with 342 in February whilst 500 were at Pugney's on 16th and 19th February, Langsett Res. with 500 on 27th October; Broomhead Res. had 550 on 28th October with 500 at Blacktoft Sands during the early months.

Eccup Res. in V.C. 64 held the highest numbers in that region with 800+ on 1st January; 1800+ on the 3rd and 4500+ on 5th decreasing to 950+ by 11th before increasing again to 1450+ on 24th thence 650 on 3rd February being the last large number reported until 120 on 24th November increasing to 360 on 20th December and then 560 on 28th. 250 in January at Fairburn Ings with 150+ during late August and 500+ on 30th December. 326 at Wormald Green on 15th January and 400 at Swinsty Res. on 5th January.

2800 were at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th January with 1700 on 27th December.

Individuals of one of the yellow - legged races were recorded at Redmires Res. on 27th July; 6th August; 13th August; 15th and 27th September. At Old Denaby on 14th December whilst birds considered to show the characteristics of the race *L.a. michahellis* were recorded at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 16th April; 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th and 15th October. (MLD *et al*).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

An average year with more recorded inland than along the coast, only three being seen during the early months. A single adult at Staithes on 4th January; a third year bird at Filey on 22nd and 24th March with a single first year bird to the north at Spurn Point on 24th April.

During the latter months, a first year bird at White Nab on 10th November; second year at Scarborough on 16th November with first year birds at Scalby on 29th November and Scarborough on 3rd; 5th and 29th December. A little further south at Filey, first winter birds were reported on 11 dates between 23rd November and 24th December with two together on this last date. Adult birds were also recorded on 25th November and 29th December. Flamborough had a very poor year with only two records of single first winter birds on 11th November and 21st December. An adult flew south at Hornsea on 2nd November.

Inland in V.C. 63 most records came during the early months of the year with a single second winter bird at Ardsley Res. on 3rd January and an adult there the following day, a first winter bird there on 15th, 16th January and 1st February with a second winter bird on 27th January. Winterset Res. reported a second winter bird on 7th January with an adult on 20th. Blackmoorfoot Res. an adult on 22nd January with a first winter at Broomhead Res. on 27th January and a second winter bird the following day. Thrybergh recorded a first winter bird on 4th February and an adult at Pugney's on 6th February. An adult at Pugney's on 14th December and a first winter bird at Winterset Res. on 30th. There must be the possibility that some of the birds reported during the early months were moving round the area as with some off the east coast during the latter months.

V.C. 64 recorded a very poor year with a single third winter bird at Fairburn Ings on 28th November and an adult at Eccup Res. from 5th to 10th; 13th, 21st, 26th and 30th December.

The only birds reported from V.C. 65 were at Bolton-on-Swale with a single first winter bird on 27th February, an adult on 2nd March and a second winter bird from 17th to 19th December.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

A changing population along the coast from Scalby to Bridlington with possibly as many as ten birds being involved. One to two were at Scarborough with three there on 19th January; four (two adults and two first winter birds) at Filey regularly during the first six weeks of the year though none again until 19th March after which both adults and first winter birds were reported in April with also a second winter bird. Regularly at Flamborough with three reported on 6th April. One to two in Bridlington Harbour during the first months of the year. Single birds reported on several occasions from all coastal locations from Bridlington south to Spurn during the period January to late April. Reported during May from Spurn Point with a second year bird on 10th; from Flamborough with single birds on 8th, 9th and 13th; from Filey with a first summer bird on 31st and Flamborough on 2nd June.

A second year bird was at Scarborough on 9th July and at Scalby on 22nd. with a 'sub adult' at Filey on 10th August.

Less birds during the latter months with the exception of Flamborough where single birds were reported on seven days during November with two on 23rd and three on 9th, two on 6th December, three on 13th and two on 20th with single birds on five other days; no doubt most of these records refer to the same birds. Two at Spurn on 25th October.

Along the Humber, a second winter bird at Sunk Island on 9th February with a second summer bird there on 11th May. Single first winter bird at Hull Docks on 2nd January; 7th January, 4th, 5th and 6th February with two on 3rd and 4th January.

Inland in V.C. 61 singles at Weel tip on 26th January; 4th and 27th April; at Tophill Low Res. on 14th February; Wheldrake Ings from 11th January to 3rd February, at

Wharfe Ings on 12th January; Brighton tip on 2nd February with a long dead bird at Barlby on 15th April and finally one at Wheldrake Ings on 25th December.

Quite widespread in V.C. 63 during the early months with two first winter birds at Ardsley on 27th January remaining to 1st February at least. All other records concern single birds; Hatfield Marina on 25th January; Blacktoft Sands on 6th and 24th January, 28th February and 5th April; Winterset Res. from 25th January to 4th February (adult), 2nd February 20th February and 1st March; Thrybergh Res. on 16th and 17th January, 2nd, 4th to 8th, 19th to 21st February (may have been two birds); second winter there on 19th March; Ardsley on 4th and 15th January. Unless specified all were first winter birds. Single birds at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th December and at Ravensthorpe tip from 26th December to the end of the year.

A poor year in V.C. 64 with a first winter bird at Eccup Res. on 18th January again from 22nd to 26th; 2nd February with a different bird present on 1st and 14th March. Fairburn Ings had a first winter bird from 20th to 27th January, another on 20th April and on 26th December. Single first winter bird at Leventhorpe on 25th February.

The only records from V.C. 65 were from Bolton-on-Swale where a single adult was reported on 11th, 23rd and 26th January; 16th and 18th February.

A Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid (first winter) was at Eccup on 23rd January. A first winter bird of probable Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrid was at Winterset Country Park from 25th January to 27th again on 25th March on which date an adult hybrid was also present.

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The highest count of the year came from Winterset Res. with 1800 on both 7th and 20th January. 1500 at Hornsea Mere on 16th November; 1160 at Flamborough on 10th October with Eccup Res. being the only other locality to report more than 1000 during the course of the year. Eccup had 534 on 1st January increasing to 750 on 3rd and 1080 on 5th thence decreasing to 645 on 24th and 140+ on 3rd February; small numbers during the latter months until 122 on 20th December then 345 on 25th and 517 on 28th. Fairburn Ings reported 550 on 4th February and 300+ on 30th December as the peaks there.

800 at Sunk Island on 19th January with 380 there on 30th August and 250 on several days during November. Tophill Low Res. had small numbers during the early months but an increase during September with 127 on 11th, 258 on 16th and 483 on 23rd thereafter less than 100 except for 400 on 9th November and 160 on 16th. Up to 300 in Filey Bay during January and up to 250 towards the end of the year. Maxima at Spurn were 110 on 13th February during the early months and 514 on 25th October at the end of the year.

Maximum counts at other locations being; Blackmoorfoot Res. with 229 on 24th January; Pugney's 500 on 9th January and 400 on 16th February; Thrybergh 153 on 30th January; Blacktoft Sands with 250 in September; Bolton-on-Swale with 850 on 4th January and 550 on 19th December; Swinsty Res. 185 on 5th January; Wath 350 on 11th January and 375 at Stone Creek on 18th January. 560 were reported flying west at Thrybergh on 29th December. No counts from Hull Docks were there is normally a high population during the mid winter.

### **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea*

A single first winter bird flew north off Hornsea on 1st February (WFC).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee

An adult at Flamborough on 24th October (JCL)

This record has not yet been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Addition to 1983 Report: The bird at Scarborough on 11 February has been accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee (N.C. Moores).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A breeding census from a boat of the cliffs to the north of Filey Brigg on 14th June gave a minimum of 5666 pairs. No other reports or comments on breeding numbers or changes in status were received.

602 off Spurn on 24th March was the highest count there during the early months whilst at Filey the hourly rate of birds passing the Brigg had increased to 1775 by mid March. 6720 were reported off Flamborough on 5th April and up 6360 an hour off Filey during early May; 1660 flew north at Spurn on 6th June on which date 200 flew north off Hornsea and 56350 north off Flamborough. 1000 the following day at Spurn; 2000 off Hornsea and 31820 at Flamborough. 1275 off Hornsea on 8th. 11000 at Flamborough on 15th; 6800 there on 12th July, 1255 north off Hornsea on 19th August with 16260 off Flamborough on 3rd September thereafter few there until 1st November when 23775 were recorded. On this same date 2000 were counted at Spurn with 954 south at Hornsea and 1550 moving south per hour off Filey.

Along the Humber 18 flew west at Sunk Island on 23rd March whilst on 7th June, a day with many birds along the coast, 30 were reported at Whitton Sands and at least 78 flying west at Cherry Cobb. 20 east at Paull on 17th May. A single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 1st June.

Reported inland during January from Blacktoft Sands on 8th, Wath Ings on 11th with two birds also two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on the same day, a single at Esholt on 12th and at Wheldrake on 18th and Thorpe Marsh on 21st. Six at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd February with single birds during the month at Fairburn, Blacktoft, Thrybergh and Catwick.

More widespread during March with one to three birds being involved from ten locations, 33 at Ogden Res. on 24th being higher than usual. A further increase in records during April with again one to three birds though 24 northeast at Winterset on 20th whilst 13 were at Pugney's on the same date. Few in May though 27 were reported from Scar House Res. on 24th.

Few during the summer months though 13 at Hay-a-Park on 26th August. Single bird at Farnham on 1st November when two were at Masham and a flock of 106 at Gouthwaite Res., this on a day when large numbers were moving along the coast.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A single adult at Flamborough on 11th July (PAL)

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

Two adults finally flying south at Flamborough on 26th June (PAL:JMP:MAP)

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first birds reported were all on the 5th April with three at Spurn; four at Flamborough and three at Filey with a single at Hornsea the following day. Small numbers were reported daily during May from all coastal locations with up to 43 at Spurn; 23 at Flamborough; 16 at Hornsea and 16 at Filey. Smaller numbers at Spurn during June, a similar situation at Hornsea though slightly higher counts at Flamborough with 42 on 9th and up to 27 at Filey.

Southerly movement commenced in early July with the first juveniles being reported from Spurn on 12th and Hornsea the following day. Up to 550 were reported at Spurn during the latter days of this month whilst the highest count at Flamborough was 212 on 13th; 219 being the highest count at Filey and at Hornsea on 29th 471 flew north with 287 to the south.

The main passage took place during August with 730 at Spurn on 6th; 660 on 19th but 1100 on 23rd; 2000 on 24th and 1000 on 25th after which numbers decreased rapidly. Hornsea had a total of 4486 birds during the course of the month with 476 south on 4th; 570 south on 7th; 326 south on 14th and 920 south on 22nd. 6852 passed Flamborough

during this month with high counts of 612 on 4th; 547 on 11th; 877 on 24th and 482 on 31st. Smaller numbers were reported from Filey though no long counts were made, the maximum count being 250 on 22nd though 161 flew south in 30 minutes on 4th.

Smaller numbers throughout September with Spurn recording 650 on both 6th and 7th whilst Hornsea reported 442 on 7th; Flamborough 486 on this date. 468 at Flamborough on 10th and 503 the following day when 160 were reported from Spurn, the last three figure count of the year there whilst 148 were at Flamborough on 14th.

250 flew west at Sunk Island on 31st August.

Inland, single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 14th June. Two at Winterset Res. on 24th April with single bird at Blacktoft on 3rd August; three at Pugney's on 4th September and two to the southwest at Redmires Res. on 20th September.

V.C. 64 reported two birds at Fairburn Ings on 11th May with a single bird there on 17th, 20th and 30th August. A single bird at Staveley on 2nd August with two at Eccup Res. on 22nd.

### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Single adult to the north at Hornsea on 10th May (GRB); single adult to the east at Blacktoft on 16th June (AG); single birds at Flamborough on 6th and 14th July with two on 26th (PAL *et al*); two adults north at Hornsea on 29th July (GRB); two south there on 20th August (one adult plus one first year) (GRB); two northwest over Spurn on 24th (adult plus juvenile); single adult flying inland at Hornsea on 28th August (WFC) and finally a single bird at Flamborough on 30th August (PAL).

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Bred at Pugney's where one pair reared three young; at Fairburn Ings with two pairs and three young; Hay-a-Park with one pair and two young. A pair attempted to breed at Thorpe Marsh without success whilst other pairs summered at Mickletown Ings; Nosterfield; Staveley and Farnham.

The first of the year was at Riccall on 15th April thereafter a single at Fairburn on 24th with two at Tophill Low Res. on 27th. 96 at Fairburn on 2nd May with 69 on 5th and 36 on 17th.

Numbers along the coast were low during spring with no more than 12 at any one location. Autumn passage was described as low at Flamborough with 2315 on 29 days during August and 1885 during September whilst further south at Hornsea 3103 were reported during the former month and 1123 during the first eight days of September. 260 off Hornsea on 9th August with 229 there the following day. 370 at Flamborough on 19th with 778 at Hornsea on the same day, 438 at Flamborough on 20th whilst only 148 at Hornsea. 368 on 25th and 347 on 31st at Flamborough. September saw 338 at Flamborough on 6th with 688 at Hornsea the following day and 738 at Flamborough on 10th with 468 on 14th. 65 at Flamborough on 20th September were the last positively identified there though at Hornsea birds were reported on six days during October with 20 on 2nd 21 the following day, three on 26th and the last being two flying south there on 1st November.

During August 1222 "commic" terns flew north off Hornsea in the early mornings whilst at Spurn Point most birds were not specifically identified with 680 on 7th September plus 680 to the south there during the evening of that same day. The last definite Common Tern being recorded on 17th October.

Unidentified terns at Sunk Island on many days with maximum count of 400 on 31st August.

Reported from some 25 localities in V.C. 63 with nine at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd July; seven on 28th August; seven at Winterset Res. on 15th June and nine on 11th August; eight at Pugney's on 23rd August. Eight at Thrybergh on 11th May.

In V.C. 64, apart from those previously reported from Fairburn Ings during spring small numbers were reported from several locations during May and in autumn from Fairburn Ings with nine on 23rd August on which date seven were at Eccup Res., most other records concerning single birds. The last bird being at Fairburn on 12th September.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisea*

First of the year were five at Saltend on 13th April with a single bird at Hull Docks the following day when one was also at Spurn Point. Reported from several locations on 15th when three were at Thrybergh, a single at Fairburn and two at Sunk Island.

Small numbers along the coast except for 37 north off Hornsea on 11th May. Seven at Fairburn Ings on 20th April and 13 on 2nd May and 21 on 5th. Seven at Thrybergh on 3rd May and nine to the east at Blacktoft Sands on 4th May. Seven at Thrybergh on 7th May with ten there on 20th. Six at Winterset on 27th.

20 flew east at Paull on 27th April with 62 in the same direction on 17th May.

29 at Flamborough on 26th July; 59 there on 4th August with a similar count on 10th. 20 on 11th and 16 on 24th. 12 at Hornsea on 20th August the highest count there during the autumn. 68 at Flamborough on 6th September.

Eight at Thrybergh on 26th August; four at Fairburn Ings on 23rd July with singles there from 27th August to 11th September; three at Gouthwaite on 19th July.

Last at Spurn was a single bird on 17th October; a single at Easington on 29th; three at Flamborough on 30th with two there on 2nd November.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

The first were two at Easington on 21st April with three there on 26th, single birds at Spurn and Paull on 27th. Almost daily at Spurn during May with 17 on 8th; 30 on 13th and 15th with 16 on 14th. 12 on 11th June thence single figures through July with 10 on 5th; 16 on 18th; 10 on 19th; 25 on 30th and 17 the following day. Up to five during the early part of August with 18 on 2nd and 11 on 7th. One to two during the latter part of the month with six on 24th. The last being one to the south there on 10th September. Seven at Hornsea on 4th August being the highest count there whilst at Flamborough three were recorded on 10th.

Two flew north at Tophill Low Res. on 6th June; the second record for that location. Three at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May, single there on 12th with one at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th; single at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th May; two at Pugney's on 4th June; single at Fairburn on 3rd July with four at Blacktoft on 6th July.

No comments were received concerning the breeding colony at Easington.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

14 at Wheldrake Ings on 1st May with 15 there the following day when seven were present at Fairburn Ings. Six at Wheldrake on 3rd with seven at Garnham (the Fairburn birds of the 2nd?). Two at Wheldrake on 4th whilst four flew east at Sunk Island and a single at Tophill Low Res. On the 5th, six flew north at Hornsea Mere with three at Tophill Low Res., three at Wheldrake and two at Filey. One to three birds present at Fairburn until 18th. Four at Hay-a-Park on 20th when three were recorded from Winterset Country Park and three at Ingbirchworth Res. Two at Fairburn from 21st to 26th June with two at Pugney's on this last date.

In autumn, one to two birds at several locations during August; larger numbers at Hornsea where ten flew south on 2nd; 12 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th on which date four were at Thrybergh. Five off Hornsea on 15th with the highest count of the year being 19 at Saltend on 11th.

Single birds were at Flamborough on 11th and 21st September with one at Nosterfield on 5th October.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

416 pairs counted on the cliffs to the north of Filey on a census undertaken on 14th June. It was estimated by the RSPB that some 25000 birds were present on the reserve at Bempton in mid July. Peak counts of this species along the coast were 23250 at Flamborough on 1st June with 51349 there on 6th and 29220 on 7th. Smaller numbers further south along the coast with 119 north off Hornsea on 2nd November. Generally, both this species and Razorbill are observed too far out to sea to be positive with identification thus most records are reported as auk sp. Counts of such birds received

being up to 650 per hour off Filey during March; 1200 an hour there during April and May with 1230 per hour on 14th December. 813 in early June as the highest count at Spurn whilst 1058 off Hornsea, to the north, on 7th June was their highest. Many large counts off Flamborough with 19500 on 29th March; 26300 on 5th June and 19170 on 21st; 1000 on 1st November and 4500 on 14th December.

On the Humber, single auks sp. flew east at Stone Creek on 20th September and 20th December whilst at Hull Docks a single Guillemot flew west on 22nd November. Six were on the River Trent/River Ouse at Blacktoft after gales on 3rd November. Single bird found exhausted near Haulith Hill in V.C. 64 on 1st January, died soon afterwards.

#### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

104 pairs counted on the census of the cliffs to the north of Filey on 14th June. Estimated to be 6000 birds on the Bempton Reserve in mid July. (RSPB)

Numbers along the coast formed only a small proportion of those birds reported as auk sp. though at Flamborough 17110 were recorded on 6th June with 8730 the following day. Small numbers on the sea off Hornsea during the period 24th July to 20th August, usually 40 to 44 birds.

#### **Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

Single birds were reported from Filey on 18th April (MGR: FN); from Flamborough on 12th September (PAL); from both Spurn Point and Hornsea on 2nd November (GRB) and on the following day from Hornsea (GRB) and Flamborough (PAL). The bird at Spurn Point was only the second record for the Observatory.

#### **Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Very few during the early months of the year with single birds being reported from Flamborough on 5th January; from Filey on 8th then one flying to the east past Hull Docks on 29th. 23 were off Flamborough on 1st February when one was found exhausted at Gilling West (V.C. 65) and two north off Hornsea. Singles at Hornsea on 2nd and Flamborough on 4th with birds at Filey on three days during the month. One found near the M1 at Durkar, near Wakefield, on 18th February though not reported whether dead or alive.

Single bird found freshly dead near Pontefract on the unusual date of 13th June. One north off Hornsea on 26th August with another there on 7th September.

Single at Flamborough on 19th October on which date two were recorded flying north at Spurn Point. Three at Spurn on 24th with six at Flamborough the same day whilst on 25th, 32 were reported from Staithes with 68 there on 26th when three were at Flamborough and a single at Hornsea.

30 flew north off Spurn on 1st November with 1342 there on the 2nd of which 1326 flew north; 1024 north at Hornsea and 2701 off Flamborough though only 166 reported from Filey. 79 off Grimston with four being reported flying inland there with a flock of Starlings. This movement was also noted along the Humber with 40 flying west at Sunk Island and seven at Blacktoft Sands. Very few the following day with 31 at Spurn; 22 at Hornsea and 27 at Flamborough but 15 west at Blacktoft. Nine south at Filey on 12th with 23 north at Spurn Point on 21st.

Inland during this period a single bird was found at Wentworth being released at Rivelin Res. and reported from Redmires Res. the following day.

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

A census conducted by boat on 14th June of the cliffs to the north of Filey revealed 36 birds on the cliffs with a further 49 on the sea. Estimated to be 5000 birds at Bempton during late July (RSPB).

The first were single birds at Hornsea on 2nd February and at Flamborough on 5th thereafter small numbers until early May when 1240 were counted off Flamborough on 3rd with 39 off Hornsea on 29th and 11 at Spurn the following day. 6570 at Flamborough on 6th June with 6585 on 7th. 8990 on 12th July; 10200 on 18th and 7800 on 19th. 5330

on 1st August and 7490 on 4th. No counts from Filey though reported as passing offshore there at the rate of 450 per hour on 23rd July. The last were single birds at both Flamborough and Hornsea on 2nd November.

Away from the coast; four flew west at Paull on 13th July with two west at Whitton Sands on 4th. A single bird reported flying west at Blacktoft on 2nd February being unusual.

A young bird found at Stainforth near Doncaster on 14th October was fed on scraps from a fish and chip shop before being returned to the coast.

#### **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

The only records came from Flamborough where few specific counts were made though 550 were recorded on 13th June and 1500 on 12th October. Many feral birds in the Filey area during the early months with some showing characteristics of wild stock. Irregularly reported from Tophill Low Res. with generally under 30 birds present but 40 on 1st June; 300 on 2nd August and 40 on 2nd December.

#### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Large flocks during the early months were up to 180 in the Wath area in February with 150 there in April; 100 at Fairburn Ings during March; 90 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th February with 72 at Thorngumbald Marsh on 18th January.

Slightly larger and more widespread flocks in the latter months of the year with 370 at Wath in October and 250 there in November; 250+ at Finningley during December; up to 118 at Thrybergh from mid November; 200 at Coneythorpe on 26th October on which date 220 were recorded at Fairburn Ings; 108 feeding on stubble at Cherry Cobb on 14th December.

Reported as being either under recorded or becoming scarcer in V.C. 63 with little change in status throughout the other V.C.s.

#### **Wood Pigeon** *Columbus palumbus*

Numbers at the roost near Hornsea Mere increased during the severe weather in the early year to peak at 5000 on 20th February. 3000 feeding on oil seed rape near Broomfleet Ponds on 14th February whilst the highest count at Tophill Low Res. in the early months was 1600 on 1st January though the area was under watched during this period. 1500 at Keyingham Marsh on 23rd February with 1000 at Pulfin Bog on 10th January were the only other counts on 1000 or over in the east of the county during the first part of the year. 2000 at Fairburn during January had decreased to c890 in February whilst in the York area 4200 roosted at Sutton Wood near Elvington on 3rd January with 2500 at Poppleton on 23rd February. 2000 at Wilsic during January and 3750 at Wadworth Carr on 22nd February.

Southerly and westerly passage was noted over the moors at both Strines Res. and Redmires Res. during autumn with 1227 and 4037 counted at those respective locations on 31st October and on 2nd November 2108 and 5352 respectively. Excepting those numbers the highest counts were 1500 on 27th December at High Batts N.R., 1300 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th November.

800 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 22nd November.

No comments received concerning status and assumed to be unchanged.

#### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Bred for the first time in Settle and continues to slowly extend northwards onto the North York Moors and along the Dales. May generally be considered to be increasing though no large numbers received from the east apart from 50 at Easington on 17th November. 150 roosting near Broomfleet Ponds during January. Further west, 205 at Fairburn Ings on 15th January, 179 on 6th February and 135 on 17th March with c200 at Old Denaby throughout most of February. Smaller flocks during the latter months with 150 at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th November being the largest; 146 at Poppleton on 9th October, 126 at Eccup village on 17th October and 108 at Ardsley on 27th September.

No other counts of over 100 received though 97 at Thorpe Marsh on 4th October. Up to 80 at Old Denaby and Bentley during the latter months.

### **Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

The first of the year was reported from Blacktoft Sands on 20th April with two at Horsforth, Leeds and a single at Loversall Carr on 25th. Single at Tophill Low Res. on 26th with one to two birds recorded from seven locations on 27th.

Southerly passage was reported at Spurn Point during May with 174 on 13th and 25th; 150 on 26th and 72 on 27th. Along the Humber, 23 flew west and 14 were grounded at Cherry Cobb on 11th May with 12 to the west on the same day at Sunk Island. This latter location recorded 35 flying west and seven east on 24th May with 33 west and 16 east on 25th; 31 east on 31st, 12 west on 11th, when 13 were at Flamborough: 12 there on 18th and 16 on 26th. 35 at Spurn on 11th June with 14 at Flamborough on 14th. 20 at Thorpe Marsh on 24th August with 14 at Wilsic on 12th June and 15 at Wath on 2nd August.

Autumn passage was light with the exception of 95 over Thrybergh on 19th August, passage at Blacktoft during this period being reported as negligible.

Breeding in V.C. 64 reported as virtually nil with no comments being received from V.C.s 61 and 62. Widely reported from the Doncaster area and to the south of Rotherham with some breeding success.

The last birds were at Reedness and Clayton on 24th September and Thrybergh on the 29th.

### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

The first reported at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 20th April with one at Tadcaster on 23rd. Singles at Redmires Res. and Thorpe Marsh on 25th thereafter becoming quite widespread during the latter days of the month. Numbers increased during the first two weeks of May with several locations reporting four to five birds but six at Thorpe Marsh during this month and 12 at Cowden Range on 12th.

A female at Winterset on 25th May was seen to swallow a Reed Warblers' egg whilst near Doncaster two young were reported in a Meadow Pipits' nest, one of which was ejected along with four eggs.

Few reported after mid August with a single bird at Flamborough on 27th; two at Thorpe Marsh on 31st; single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 7th September and Broomfleet Ponds on 9th.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61. No apparent change in status from last year with birds being reported from some 58 locations though generally single birds but up to three in the Skeffing area. Reported as breeding at six locations in the York area and undoubtedly does so along the Holderness coast though no records received.

V.C. 62. Three pairs in the York area with the species becoming scarce to the north and west of that area. No other reports from this V.C.

V.C. 63. Becoming increasingly scarcer in the Doncaster district every year otherwise no really useful information received. No records from either the Bradford or Sheffield areas. The only breeding record was of a single pair to the west of Doncaster.

V.C. 64. Few records from this V.C. with none of breeding. One to two birds reported from eight localities with two at Fairburn on several days during late June.

V.C. 65. The only records received were of a single bird at Nosterfield on 12th February and 2nd April.

A single dark breasted bird of the race *T.a. guttata* was reported from Cowden on 30th November (EWC)

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

V.C. 61: Bred at six locations with probable breeding taking place at a further seven sites, almost all in the vicinity of York. Only two occurrences of two birds together to the east of the Wolds, at Watton and Goxhill and generally quite scarce in Holderness.

V.C. 62: A similar trend to previous years with birds present only in the York area apart from occasional reports from Scarborough and near Pickering.

V.C. 63: No reports received concerning status but only 17 pairs proven as breeding no doubt due to lack of observations. Birds were present also at a further 32 locations during the summer months.

V.C. 64: No apparent change in status and no reports of significance with the exception of six pairs found in a two mile stretch near the River Ure between Westwick and Rocliffe.

V.C. 65: Again no change in status with breeding proven at several locations and birds present at many others.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Comments received were "remains common and widespread despite poor breeding season" (V.C. 64); "not a lot of breeding evidence" (V.C. 63). "Relatively few records received this year" (York). Although initially the trend would appear to be downward, particularly after the severe weather of the first two months when dead birds were reported from several locations, it is considered that the status of this species is little changed and that the relatively few records received are mainly due to lack of observer coverage.

Young in a nestbox in the Washburn Valley were found to have been fed on Mistle Thrush and Woodcock chicks.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: No definite breeding though a juvenile at Allertorpe on 17th June would indicate that successful breeding had taken place in that area. Up to six birds were roosting in the Flamborough area during January; numbers erratic during February with nine on 9th; five on 11th; 12 on 13th; eight on 15th; nine on 16th and 19th with eight on 23rd. 14 on 1st and 2nd March; 10 on 8th; 12 on 9th and 10 on 15th thereafter numbers decreased to two to three birds though five on 12th April. Inland at Cowlam Bottoms 18 were present on 21st January with 11 on 24th and nine there on 1st February. Five at Sledmere on 3rd March may have been birds associated with this latter roost. Six were at Burstwick on 28th February with two there on 11th April; two at Saltend on 13th April.

A remarkable influx along the east coast during mid November, noted particularly at Spurn Point where after a single bird on 13th November 17 were counted the following day. Three were at Kilnsea and six at Flamborough this same day. On 15th, 23 were at Spurn with nine at Flamborough decreasing to 10 at Spurn on 16th and two on 17th when three were at Flamborough. The previous highest count of this species at Spurn being 12 on 28th October 1950, eleven of these being in one bush.

V.C. 62: Bred at Strensall Common and Snargate with few other records, only one coastal report of a single bird at Long Nab on 30th November.

V.C. 63: An exceptional roost of 21 birds at Owston Wood on 25th January increasing to 23 on 30th thereafter decreasing to 13 by 8th February. Two roosting at Denaby on 28th January with six present there from 8th to 22nd February and seven on 3rd March: six at Potteric Carr on 22nd February. One to three at Wath from late November to mid December with four on 30th November. Two at Haw Park during the early months with only a single bird towards the end of the year.

Bred successfully at Thorpe Marsh with successful breeding at a further two locations and suspected breeding at a further five locations.

V.C. 64: Very few records with single birds at Fairburn Ings on 25th January staying until 27th; on 4th February and 3rd May: at Crookrise Wood from 14th to 16th and

30th May and 1st June. A dead bird found on the railway sidings at Hunslet on 12th November.

V.C. 65: A single bird at Wensley on 12th November.

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

V.C. 61. Well distributed along the coast, Humber estuary, the River Hull and the Lower Derwent Ings. Most records concerned one to two birds but four at Kilnsea on 1st January; four at Spurn Point on 19th April; four on Sunk Island on 1st January with up to three there on many dates to the last bird on 14th June. At Stone Creek and Cherry Cobb up to four were present regularly during January with eight being present after the snow on 9th February and nine on 23rd, up to four remaining until the end of April. Up to five at Figham during January with one to two there until the end of April. The Lower Derwent had a minimum of six birds present during the early months with three at Wheldrake on 15th and 16th January; three were recorded regularly at Aughton/Bubwith/North Duffield until early March.

The autumn was however "disappointing" (Filey); "poor" (Flamborough), "atrocious, probably the worst ever" (Lower Derwent). Very few locations reported birds with only Spurn, on 19th October; Sunk Island, several days; Figham, several days and British Gas Platform 47/3B on 13th October, reporting two birds.

V.C. 62. One to two at several coastal locations during the early months plus two to the north of York during the same period. Very few records during the latter months of the year.

V.C. 63: Bred at Blacktoft Sands though the outcome was not reported. Three pairs bred on the western moorlands with one pair being successful, another failed and the third was not reported.

During the early months up to four were reported from Blacktoft until March with a similar number at Snailsden near Holmfirth during January. Two at Misson and Potteric Carr on 5th January. Six, roosting at Bolton Ings had decreased to two by March whilst three were reported from Thorpe Marsh on 8th April. Smaller numbers from fewer locations during the latter months with four at Blacktoft in November and December.

V.C. 64: Bred successfully at Timble Ings and near Settle, unsuccessfully at another location and observed displaying at a further two.

An increase in the number of records from the lowland areas, mainly concerning single birds though occasionally two in the Harrogate area and up to four in the Ribble Valley between January and April.

V.C. 65: Numbers on the moorlands were well down on 1984.

### **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A minimum of 15 singing males in Dalby Forest with one at Wykeham; four at Skipwith and two on Strensall Common. 41 males were located on Thorne Moors with one pair on Hatfield Moors on 12th June. A single bird at Wharnccliffe Woods on 14th June with three there on a later date.

A single bird at Staveley on 21st May with birds found dead at Darrington on 30th August and Swinefleet Common on 22nd August.

A male on the outskirts of Filey on 29th May was the first record for that location (MCD)

### **Swift** *Apus apus*

The first of the year were single birds at Fairburn Ings; Mickletown Ings and Otley G.P. all on 26th April followed by singles at Pugney's on 29th and Hornsea Mere on 30th. By 6th May birds were quite widespread with numbers increasing rapidly after that date. The first four figure counts were reported during the second week of the month with 1020 at Hornsea Mere on 12th increasing to 1400 on 17th; 1650 on 18th falling to 1200 by the end of the month. A very high count of 10000 at Fairburn Ings on 21st with 1300 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd. c1700 at Broomhill on 21st. 11000 at

Fairburn Ings on 20th June with 2000 at Spurn on 17th; 4500 at Hornsea Mere on 21st and 3600 at Flamborough on 28th.

Large numbers along the coast during July with 25000 at Flamborough on 5th, this being the highest daily count ever recorded in Yorkshire. 9700 were reported there the following day with 3200 at Hornsea Mere on 10th and 4800 on 7th: Spurn recorded 3700 on 4th though very few on the 5th the day of heavy passage at Flamborough; 6500 on 29th and 3000 on 31st. 2000 were at Fairburn Ings on 21st.

During August, 6000 were at Hornsea Mere on 2nd with 2100 flying south along the coast there in four hours whilst 2000 were recorded at Spurn. 15000 at Spurn on 7th, the second highest count there (20000 on 23rd June 1970 being the highest). After this date the only counts of more than 1000 were from Hornsea Mere with 1600 on 8th; 1080 on 12th. Numbers decreased rapidly with 120 at the Mere on 29th August falling to ten on 31st.

Very few in September with 45 at Spurn on 1st, 30 the following day with the last there on the 8th: 40 were reported from Broomhill Flash on 9th with single birds at Thorpe Marsh and Welburn on 17th.

Three very late birds at Horsforth on 9th October with a single exceptionally late record from Long Nab on 18th November (MFr), this being the third latest record for the county.

### **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

A single bird flew south over Kilnsea Cliff and thence Spurn Point on 17th June constituting the sixth record for the Observatory. (TMC).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

A single bird at Flamborough on 6th June (PAL) has yet to be submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Addition to 1983 Report:

Single bird at Kilnsea on 24th September (AG & Mrs. Hall). Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthus*

The only recorded breeding in V.C. 61 was from the York area where several pairs were reported along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal with two pairs along the River Ouse between Fulford/Bishophthorpe/Naburn and a pair at Kirkham Abbey on the Derwent. During the summer months birds were also reported from Melbourne; the River Hull/Driffeld Canal area as well as Broomfleet Ponds and Hornsea Mere.

In V.C. 62 breeding occurred at York Water Works, Poppleton and in the Pickering area where up to five pairs may have bred. During the summer months birds were also reported from Strensall Common, Duncombe Park; Hutton Rudby and Thirsk.

Quite widespread in V.C. 63 though the hard weather during the early months was reported as having an adverse effect on birds in the Doncaster area with breeding only taking place at Wath Ings though suspected at Old Denaby and Denaby. Elsewhere, an upsurge in records from the Huddersfield area with proven breeding of five pairs and possible breeding of a further four. Quite healthy numbers in the Sheffield area where three pairs bred with birds being reported in the city. One pair bred in the Bradford area with a further two probably so doing whilst there were regular reports from two locations near Wakefield and one near Halifax.

Considered to have been little affected by the severe winter weather in V.C. 64 as an increase in breeding numbers was reported. Good numbers were reported from both the Rivers Swale and Ure in V.C. 65.

### **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

A single bird at Spurn Point on 1st May was observed to move off to the north and may have been the same bird which flew into a cottage window in Easington on 11th May. Although the bird was stunned, it later flew off, after being cared for by the occupants, and was seen on the Humber bank. A single bird reported from Edenthorpe School near Doncaster on 14th May (RAM).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

No spring records. The first of the autumn was from Spurn Point on 19th August where birds were reported daily from 21st August to 3rd September. One to three present there from the 21st to 25th with two at Flamborough on 23rd. A single bird reported inland at Stamford Bridge on 24th and 25th (Mrs. H.M. Petfield); singles at Flamborough on 24th and 26th with two at Filey and seven at Spurn on this last date. The Filey birds remaining until 30th. Three at Spurn and a single at Kilnsea on 27th with one on Castle Hill, Scarborough. Four at Flamborough, singles at Hornsea and Kilnsea with seven at Spurn Point on 28th; eight at Spurn on 29th with four there on 30th when four were also at Flamborough with the two at Filey being joined by a third bird. A single bird in a garden at Bessacarr near Doncaster was present on 29th and 30th and may possibly have arrived there on 28th; this bird being photographed. Three at Spurn and singles at Cowden Range and Flamborough on 31st.

In September, three at Spurn on 1st with single birds there on 2nd; 3rd; 15th and 18th.

A third inland bird recorded at Eccup Res. from 31st August to 3rd September (ABS *et al*).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

The only records from Holderness involved single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 20th July and Holderness Drain near Hull on 19th April. Further west in V.C. 61 breeding occurred in the vicinity of Warter Priory and Allertorpe Common. Possible breeding occurred at Skipwith Common; Kirkham Abbey and Elm Hagg.

Bred at Strensall Common and at Brandsby, where four pairs were reported, in V.C. 62 with probable breeding at Castle Howard; Rievaulx Abbey; Duncombe Park and near Pickering.

Bred at 10 locations in V.C. 63 plus a further 10 in the area covered by the Sheffield Bird Study Group though some of these locations may be over the border into Derbyshire as no indication is given in their report. Six birds at Bentley on 19th April whilst Melton Wood recorded its first bird since 1962/63.

Widespread in V.C. 64 with birds reported from some 60 locations though breeding was recorded in very few. Five were recorded occasionally on Ripon Golf Course with a single bird during March at Scar House Res. 1300 feet above sea level.

Reported from Wensley and near Richmond in V.C. 65 with no apparent change in status in that area.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Would appear to be no change in status with some 100 breeding pairs reported though many more birds reported through the summer months and many doubtless breed.

Small numbers along the coast could have involved passage birds with one at Flamborough on 1st January considered to belong to the northern race *C.m. major* whilst the only one of three trapped at Spurn to be measured was of the British race. *D.m. anglicus*

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

The increase reported in 1985 from Huddersfield; Leeds; Doncaster and the Sheffield areas apparently continues. Reported from 20 locations in the Leeds area, nine near Harrogate and near Settle for the first time in eight years. Breeding was reported from six locations in V.C. 63 although this year none were reported from the York area, actual numbers of breeding pairs for V.C. 64 not reported.

Very rare in the east with the only records coming from Hornsea Mere where single birds were seen on 27th February; 8th March and 22nd October with two on 18th October. Single birds at Middleton on 22nd February; Sleightholmedale on 8th March and Duncombe Park on 29th July were the only records from the area to the north of York.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Some small movement noted during the cold weather of the early year with c300 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 5th January; 223 over Pugney's the same day whilst 268 south over Fairburn Ings on 11th. Flocks during this period were not particularly large with 200 at Eccup on 5th; 600 at Bubwith on 7th, 200 at Hatfield on 5th and 300 in the Idle Valley the following day. 950 at Barmston on 25th January being by far the highest count during the first two months. Numbers in V.C. 64 generally small with no more than 40 birds at any one location and in many places quite scarce.

More cold weather movement in February with 350 south over Blacktoft on 6th and 80 the following day. Numbers along the coast and the estuary increased during this period with c250 at Filey, 118 at Stone Creek on 9th increasing to 197 by 23rd. 500 south over Fairburn Ings on 5th. 153 south over Thrybergh on 6th.

Breeding apparently normal except for V.C. 64 where it was considered that there had been a decrease.

Light passage noted along the coast during the autumn with 220 at Flamborough on 5th October when 351 flew east and 45 west at Sunk Island. 1240 were all that were reported passing south at Spurn Point during the whole month with 326 on 22nd and 238 on 29th as the maxima. 500 at Flamborough on 11th. Westerly passage along the Humber on 12th with 150 birds recorded and 178 on 26th at Sunk Island. 305 at Flamborough on 15th November with 120 west at Sunk Island and 96 west there on 15th. Few at Spurn though 'many' reported flying southwest over Kilnsea on 17th.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Two at Fraisthorpe on 22 March was the only record during the early part of the year.

Single bird at Flamborough on 27th September (PAL); three to the south at Hornsea on 15th October (GRB) with three to the east of Cherry Cobb on 18th (SML). Four at Barmston on 2nd November (PMS) with a single bird at Kilnsea on 6th. Single bird at Fraisthorpe and two at Barmston on 15th November on which date a single bird was at Sunk Island. (SML: JW). Five at Barmston on 16th, four there on 20th with five again on 30th and six on 21st December (BR).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

The first were single birds at Fairburn Ings and the Rother Valley Country Park on 16th March there after at Castle Howard 21st; three at Denaby Ings on 22nd; Fairburn and Castle Howard on 23rd; Pugney's on 27th and Fairburn again on 30th. From early April birds were quite widespread though not until 9th April were any reported from the east coast.

The largest concentrations during spring were reported from Hornsea Mere with 520 present on 4th May increasing to 900 the following day thence decreasing to 720 on 11th; 760 on 17th; 750 on 18th and 600 on 19th. Tophill Low Res. had 120 by 27th April increasing to 200 on 6th May and 400 on 10th. 500 at Blacktoft Sands on 11th May with 240 at Fairburn Ings on 24th April; 190 on 4th May; 300 at Knotford Nook on 6th. The only count from V.C. 65 was of 450 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th.

Generally, numbers were smaller during the autumn with the exception of the roost at Blacktoft where 2500 were counted on 31st July; 400 at Thorpe Marsh on 19th August; 245 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd July increased to 280 on 2nd August, 390 on 22nd and 400 on 29th. 310 still present on 5th September. 200 in mid July at Hornsea Mere was the highest count there. 145 at Spurn on 26th July with 300 on 1st and 2nd September thereafter 100 on 4th and 50 to 60 on the following four days.

All V.C.s reported a continued increase in breeding numbers although some areas, Halifax and Huddersfield, reported an absence still from old breeding sites.

The last birds recorded were a single at High Batts N.R. on 5th October; three at Blacktoft on 7th and finally three south at Easington on 29th (DW).

### Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first arrival was at Esholt S.W. on 30th March with two at Knotford Nook on 6th April. Otherwise birds were late in arriving with no more until 12th when a single bird was at the Rother Valley Country Park with birds at several locations on 13th. The first to arrive in V.C. 61 not being until 16th at Tophill Low Res. Although by late April birds were widespread, 60 at South Elmsall on 25th being the highest count in V.C. 63 whilst in V.C. 64; 500 at Fairburn Ings on 24th; in V.C. 61 up to 100 at Tophill Low Res. by the end of the month and 180 at Hornsea Mere on 30th.

1020 at Hornsea Mere on 5th May with 900 on 10th increasing thereafter to 1240 on 11th, 2060 on 17th; 2200 on 18th, 2300 on 19th thence 2100 by the end of the month. Southerly passage recorded at Spurn Point with 1500 on 19th and 22nd, 3300 on 23rd; 1850 on 24th and 1680 on 25th; the total reported for the month being 15405 birds.

Numbers generally smaller throughout June with 400 at Fairburn Ings on 4th; 1260 at Hornsea Mere on 21st with a similar situation during July.

350 to the west at Thorpe Marsh in two hours on 8th August whilst numbers increased at Hornsea Mere from 1200 on 12th to 2100 on 16th, then 1800 on 26th followed by 2600 on 28th, 3860 on 29th and 3000 on 30th. Southerly movement at Spurn throughout the month though the last few days accounted for most of the birds counted; 2125 on 29th and 2200 on 31st. Up to 350 on several days at Tophill Low Res.

Westerly passage along the Humber reported from Sunk Island with 832 on 23rd August; 2620 on 24th and 216 on 25th. Birds were recorded moving east at that location on 10th August and 330 being involved and 290 on 16th.

2000 roosted at Blacktoft on 20th August with a similar number using Wintersett during the period from mid month into September.

Passage at Spurn for September totalled 33744 out of a total of 40700 recorded during the autumn, considerably more than the previous four years. Virtually all passed during the first week of the month with 6700 on the 1st; 11500 on 2nd; 4000 on 4th, 4200 on 5th; 5000 on 6th and 1700 on 7th. Elsewhere along the coast numbers were small with 350 on 6th and 550 on 7th at Flamborough as the highest counts reported. 350 flew east at Sunk Island on 13th with 200 west there on the following day. c8000 at Broomhill/Wombwell on 14th.

Small numbers during October reported from many locations with records in November from Spurn, a single bird on 14th and two the following day, singles at Barnbow Common (V.C. 64) on 16th, Scalby Mills on 23rd and Longwestgate (V.C. 62) the following day whilst at Filey a juvenile was seen feeding along the bay cliffs on 29th in company with two House Martins. All three birds remaining until 1st December.

Comments on breeding received being 'less than average in V.C. 64 due to adverse weather during late August' and in V.C. 63 'breeding numbers a little low'.

### House Martin *Delichon urbica*

An extremely early bird at Robin Hood's Bay on 22nd March (SR) followed by a single bird at Knotford Nook on 5th and 7th April. Most locations reported their first birds between 16th and 26th April. Numbers built up during May with maximum counts of 460 at Hornsea Mere on 19th; up to 500 during the month at Fairburn after 200 there during the latter days of April. 300 at Wintersett on 17th; up to 210 at Tophill Low Res., 250 to west at Wath Ings on 11th; 200+ at Potteric Carr on 12th and a similar count at Adwick-le-Street on 18th. Spurn Point reported mainly three figure counts during the latter part of the month with 1100 on 23rd and 800 the following day. Spring passage here was again well up on the previous year.

The largest autumn gatherings were at Hornsea Mere with 1600 on 26th August after 600 the previous day, a similar count on 28th with the highest count of the year being on 29th when estimates varied between 2100 and 3000. A rapid fall to 400 on 31st. Up to 400 at Tophill Low Res during the month; 350 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd, c1100 at Esholt S.W. on 25th.

500 at Bardsey on 10th September; 500 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th with 458 flying southeast at Pugney's on the 9th. Numbers at Spurn varied during the

first week of the month with 20 on 1st; 1600 the following day, 625 on 3rd, 50 on 4th, 160 on 5th, 500 on 6th and 1350 on 7th. At Sunk Island on 6th 353 flew east whilst a further 170 were reported flying west.

Numbers during October were reported as being fewer in V.C. 64 though no comments received from other areas but quite widespread though nowhere large.

Many locations reported birds in November with one at Tophill Low Res. on 12th; Thrybergh on 13th, two at Flamborough and a single at Spurn on 15th; three at Eldwick on 17th; a single at Swinton on 24th (this the latest ever record for the Sheffield area) and finally the two birds at Filey from 29th to 1st December in company with the Swallow.

Most areas reported a good breeding season though along the east coast the gale and heavy rain of the evening of 25th August brought down many nests. Seven nests under one gable end at Atwick thus suffered with the resulting loss of 27 eggs and young. The adult birds left the area within the week; a similar situation was also noted at Skipsea and Ulrome.

#### **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

A single bird at Paull Holme on 5th October was watched gradually moving west along the estuary bank (SML). A single bird at Flamborough on 12th October (JCL). From 18th to 23rd November a single bird was reported from Long Nab (MFr) whilst on 22nd a second bird was reported from Paull Holme (SML)

#### **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

the first of the year was on 15th April at Winterset followed by birds at Worsborough on 19th, in the Colne Valley and at Wadworth on 20th. By the next week birds were quite widespread. Spring passage along the coast was light with nine at Flamborough on 3rd May and seven there on 18th as the highest numbers recorded.

Breeding status apparently unchanged though less singing males were reported in the Huddersfield area but one stronghold not checked.

Autumn passage light with one to seven daily at Spurn during the latter half of August with 20 on 26th and 15 the following day. Eight at Flamborough on 30th being the highest count there. Late birds being singles at Fairburn and Flamborough on 28th September, Esholt S.W. on 29th and two at Flamborough on 12th October.

#### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Small numbers during the early months of the year with 60+ at Adwick-le-Street on 10th January and 75 at Broomhill on 8th February. Westerly passage noted in V.C. 63 and 64 during late March and early April with 75 counted at Crosland Hill in ten minutes on 28th March. On 30th 350+ reported from Knotford Nook with 270+ grounded and 62 to west at Keswick Fitts on the same day. 150 at Rushes Farm on 31st when 50+ were at both Otley and Castley whilst 150+ remained at Knotford Nook; 100 were still at this location on 6th April with 250 to the west at Gouthwaite. 250 were at Pugney's on 24th April decreasing to 65 by mid April whilst at Ingbirchworth 160 were recorded on 30th March. Coastal passage during this period was very light.

Autumn passage at Spurn described as poor with 6254 birds being counted of which 1100 flew south on 19th September, 260 on 5th October and 204 on 22nd October. Maxima at Flamborough being 250 on 16th September; 250 on 5th October and 100 on 11th and 12th. None were recorded at Filey after 23rd October whilst birds were recorded on only three days at Flamborough after early November.

Inland, 520 were recorded at Thrybergh during September with 122 on 23rd, 80+ at Thorpe Marsh on 10th September with 60 at Wath Ings on 5th October. 300 flew west in 2½ hours on 11th October over Wholestone Moor; 468 west at Marsden on 30th September and 182 there on 1st October. 250 south over Redmires Res. in 30 minutes on 26th September with 133 southwest over Strines Res. on 24th and 261 in the same direction on 31st October. 50 to 80 were reported from several other moorland locations during this period.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

The breeding population along the coast from Bridlington northwards would appear to be unchanged.

Inland, single birds were reported from Fairburn Ings on 28th January; 10th September; 2nd October with two on 5th October. Singles at Esholt on 8th February; 14th October and Eccup on 16th October. In the Doncaster area single birds at Broomhill on 29th September; Old Denaby on 10th and 31st October; Thrybergh on 16th and Wath on 19th October. Winterset had a single bird on 9th October with two on 3rd November whilst at Pugney's a single bird on 24th March; two on 5th October and further single birds on 11th and 26th October. In the Sheffield area birds in flight considered to be this species were reported from Tinsley on 15th February; Strines on 28th October with two the following day and Redmires with single birds on 5th and 12th October; 17th November and 6th December.

Along the Humber a single bird reported from Blacktoft from the start of the year until 25th February with a second bird on 16th February whilst in the latter months one flew west there on 3rd October; a single on 27th with two from 28th to the end of the year. Further east at Broomfleet single birds recorded on 6th February; 13th and 27th November. Four to six at Stone Creek during January with nine during the severe weather in early February thereafter a decrease but nine again on 16th March; the first of the autumn being recorded on 21st September thereafter up to seven reported until the end of the year. Up to three at Sunk Island during both winters with 11 on 15th February and 13 on 9th March. Small numbers at Spurn with eight on 18th October and nine on 7th November.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.s. littoralis* were reported from several locations particularly along the coast with up to two at Flamborough during late March and early April, four at Filey on 28th March with three the following day and eight on 30th. One to two at Hornsea Mere from mid March to early April, three at Paull on 16th March.

Birds showing the characteristics of Water Pipit. *A.s. spinoletta* were reported from Fairburn Ings on 5th; 13th; 17th and 18th April, from Skipton S.W. on 16th November. A single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd January, again on 10th March and then daily until 13th April by which time it had assumed summer plumage, a second bird present there on 10th April. A single bird in summer plumage at Flamborough on 7th and 8th May. A single bird present from 22nd October on many days until the end of the year.

Addition to 1985 Report: A single bird at Old Denaby on 7th December.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

An early bird at Kilnsey Trout Farm on 1st April thereafter singles at Blacktoft Sands on 7th thence on the 8th at Fairburn Ings and Pugney's.

Large flocks reported during the spring passage were 28 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th April; 23 at Hornsea Mere on 30th April; 25 at Pugney's on 25th and 28th April with 30 in the Ribble Valley on 27th.

3rd May produced the highest counts of the spring with 78 at Spurn Point; 68 at Flamborough; 30 at Thrybergh and 23 at Hornsea Mere.

Breeding in many parts of V.C. 64 reported as poor with no breeding confirmed along the Aire between Fairburn Ings and Esholt and only noted at eight locations in the Harrogate area. Small numbers breeding in the lowland areas of Sheffield, Wakefield and Doncaster in V.C. 63. No reports received from either V.C. 61 or V.C. 62.

Autumn flocks reported were 30 at Hornsea Mere on 9th July increasing to 41 the following day thence 35 on 11th and 30th on 12th. 40 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th August with 30 there on 8th September. 89 at Sunk Island on 23rd August with 43 on 31st and 21 to the west there on 6th September. 30 at Whitton Sands on 7th August, 80 on 20th. Up to 50 Winterset Country Park during August with a peak count of 60 on 11th. 110 at Thrybergh on 21st August. 30+ at Fairburn Ings on 7th August with 56 at Ripon Course on 13th August.

Along the coast 40 were on the cliff top at Hornsea on 16th August whilst at Spurn Point 85 were present on 21st August with 39 on 29th and 76 on 2nd September.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Blue-headed race *M.f.flava* were reported from ten locations between the 22nd April at Thrybergh and 12th May at Hornsea Mere with a single bird in autumn at Ripon Race Course on 13th August. Single birds were reported from most locations with two at Flamborough on 7th May; at Hornsea Mere on 1st; 3rd May and at Spurn on 1st and 3rd May.

Late birds were reported from Mickletown Ings on 6th October and Flamborough on 10th and 13th.

#### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged in areas of higher ground, an increase in the Sheffield area though no breeding reported from the regular location in V.C. 61. but a pair were present in the Pocklington area throughout the summer months.

Common and widespread in lowland localities in the north and west of the county, smaller numbers being recorded from V.C. 61 with four at Flamborough on 18th October; four at Spurn on 19th August; three at Sunk Island on 4th October with three at Figham on 9th February.

At least six at Fairburn Ings on 20th September though the number may have been as high as nine. 12 at Otley Weir on 22nd September. Seven at Clifton Lake near York on 14th August.

#### **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

The largest roosts of the early months were 150 at Huddersfield Civic Centre on 2nd January; 75 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th March with 100 at the Harrogate District Hospital on 12th March.

Apart from Flamborough no coastal locality reported large numbers; at this location 40 were recorded on 25th July with 140 on 4th August; 60 on 12th and 80 on 17th.

Autumn flocks reported were 120 during August at Bolton Common with up to 70 there throughout September. 142 at Ripon Race Course on 13th August; 100 at Skipton S.W. on 9th August; 152 at Fairburn in October with 280 flying southeast over Leventhorpe near Leeds on 15th November.

Birds showing the characteristics of the White Wagtail *M.a.alba* were reported from many sites, mostly in spring with 10 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st May; up to 14 at Fairburn during the latter weeks of April. Seven at Pugney's on 25th April.

No comments on breeding status received.

#### **Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Eight at Whitby on 25th January with three at Helmsley on 7th February. Single birds at Ecclesall on 17th January, Carr Manor (Leeds) on 22nd February. One picked up in a weak condition at Gleadless on 12th February was released in good condition on 9th March after being fed on cottoneaster berries throughout the period. Single bird at Moorends on 28th February whilst three were present at Deepcar from 25th January to 8th February.

Two in a Harrogate garden on 28th December with a single bird remaining the following day.

#### **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Widespread and common in the higher ground of the north and west of the county with no apparent change in status. Several pairs along the River Derwent though not known to have bred, likewise a pair at Scalby Mills.

A single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 18th April was the first record for that location with what could possibly have been the same bird there on 4th June.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

'No really significant reports, but no evidence to suggest that it wintered badly' (V.C. 63); 'apparently unaffected by the severe January to March weather. Had a good breeding season' (V.C. 64).

Only small numbers reported along the coast with no indication of passage.

25 at Wilsic during March with c50 at Sprotbrough Flash during July and August where an estimated 20 pairs bred.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

No change in the breeding status reported.

48 at Flamborough on 19th April with 16 the following day and 40 on 3rd November followed by 16 on 4th would indicate passage as would the highest count of 30 at Stone Creek on 11th October which included 24 in one area including several restless birds.

Up to 50 at Wilsic during March with a similar number at Sprotbrough Flash during July and August.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

No apparent change in status reported.

Spring passage noted during April with 14 at Filey on 18th followed by 70 there on 19th when 110 were reported from Flamborough. 15 at Flamborough on 20th with 22 at Filey still remaining on 22nd and 17 at Flamborough on 26th. 21 at Spurn Point on 19th.

Light passage during the autumn with 17 at Flamborough on 12th October; 22 on 13th. During this period Spurn Point reported up to 17 birds. This immigration was noted inland with 13 at Thrybergh on 16th October although at Wath Ings 40+ were present on 20th September.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Has been increasing at Thorne Moors since 1980 though the only details received being of eight males there on 22nd and 28th May; four from 4th to 8th June with five on 11th June and three on 19th.

A singing male at Broomfleet Ponds on 10th May.

Single birds at Spurn Point on 6th May and at Flamborough on 29th August.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

Only three records, all of single birds though two of them inland. First, a male in song at Ripon Parks on 17th May (RE), one at Esholt S.W. on 23rd September (MP:PC:RS) whilst the only coastal record was from Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 16th September (NAB *et al*)

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Four pairs bred in Sheffield with one pair producing two broods. A pair reported from the centre of Bradford feeding three or four young on 25th June whilst two young were being fed at Saltend near Hull on 21st June. Singing males were also reported from the centre of Hull and the docks areas during the period May to late June.

Spring passage noted along the coast with four at Spurn Point on 8th April; six on 16th and 17th with four on 19th when 10 were at Flamborough and two at Filey and Hornsea.

Smaller numbers along the coast during the autumn with one to two at Spurn though five there on 12th October whilst at Flamborough five were also present on this date with six there on 13th and three on 14th. Four were at Scarborough on 15th.

Inland, away from the breeding locations birds were reported from Wath Colliery on 30th April; Thorpe Marsh Power Station on 12th August; Luddendenfoot on 15th June; Pugney's on 31st March and 1st April; near Holmbridge on 18th April and Tophill Low Res. on 12th October.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first of the year was a single bird at Thrybergh on 17th April still present the following day with one at Spurn Point on 19th; Pugney's on 22nd and Thrybergh and Knotford Nook on 23rd. Birds were quite widespread by early May though passage along the coast was reported as light with five at Spurn point on 1st May and nine there on 6th whilst five were recorded at Flamborough on 3rd and eight on 5th.

No comments on change of status received with breeding taking place in many locations along the wooded edges of the Pennines and smaller numbers in the North York Moors whilst two pairs bred to the north of York and a single pair in Givendale in V.C. 61.

Autumn passage more widespread with slightly larger numbers than in spring; six at Arksey Common on 3rd August being the highest count inland though along the coast 14 at Flamborough on 26th August and 26 there on 28th. 14 on 13th September on which date 26 were recorded from Spurn with six and 18 respectively on the 14th. Seven at Flamborough on 27th. 12 there on 5th October with three at Spurn the same day after which two at Flamborough on 12th and three on 13th with two at Spurn the same day and the last there and for the county on 17th.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

As with many species this was also rather late in arriving, the first being reported from Blacktoft on 25th April with single birds at Ilkley Moor and the Little Don Valley on 26th; Clayton on 27th; Kilnsea on 28th thence two at Spurn on 29th with single birds at Thorpe Marsh and Fairburn Ings.

Quite widespread during early May with coastal passage noted particularly on the 3rd when 23 were recorded at Spurn; 20 at Flamborough and 11 at Filey. 13 at Flamborough on 17th.

Considered to have had a good breeding season on the high ground of V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 63 success was reported as difficult to assess though not considered to be any change in status.

Light autumn passage with 16 at Grimwith on 5th August and 15 near Eccup on 23rd. Along the coast 32 reported from Flamborough on 26th when 31 were recorded at Spurn; the highest count of the year there. 28 at Flamborough on 28th with 16 on 29th; 18 on 30th and 16 on 31st. Eight at Flamborough on 14th September was the highest count there during that month with between 12 and 21 at Spurn during the first six days, smaller numbers to the 12th thence up to 22 to the 17th thereafter between three and eight to the end of the month.

Three at both Spurn and Flamborough on 1st October with three again at Spurn on 5th; the last being single birds at Spurn on 17th and Flamborough the following day.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Reported from V.C. 61 along the coast in the winter months with fewer records this year. A 'family party' at Cowden on 5th October with two there on 15th November. Single birds at Grimston on 16th March; Hull Docks on 5th and 11th January and a male at Thorngumbald on 27th September. The only other records for this V.C. came from Spurn Point with single birds there on 15th and 16th March; 30th March and 30th May. Singles on 15th; 17th; 18th; 25th September and 23rd October with two on 26th and 28th September.

Only two records of single birds from V.C. 62 at Ampleforth on 7th April and Saltersgate on 15th July.

In V.C. 63 considered to have bred at Thornton, Bradford and proven breeding at Ramsden Clough. Apart from these reports birds were recorded from Shirecliffe Tip between 9th and 15th February; Blacktoft Sands from 9th to 13th March; two at Upper Midhope on 9th March with a single bird at Porter Clough on 31st March. Single male at Potteric Carr on 1st February. During the latter months of the year single birds were reported from Blacktoft Sands on 5th October and between 20th and 21st. Pontefract

on 21st December and at Stacks near Pontefract on 27th December whilst one was at Barnby Dun on 2nd. Reported as becoming scarcer year by year in the Doncaster area.

In V.C. 64 the two birds reported at Mickletown Ings during the latter days of 1985 remained there until 5th March with a male returning on 26th October and a pair present from 2nd December to the end of the year. Other records were of a male at Ripon Parks on 16th March and a female at Austwick Moss on 28th March.

A single bird at Bolton-on-Swale at the end of May was the only report received from V.C. 65.

An individual showing the characteristics of one of the eastern races known colloquially as Siberian Stonechat *S.t. maura* or *S.t. stejnegeri* was reported from Paull Fort on 5th October. (SML)

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first reported bird was at East Cottingham on 16th March followed by a single at Broomhead Moor and two at Malham on 19th, thereafter on 20th at Wath, Redmires, Fairburn, Thorpe Marsh and the first for the coast at Spurn Point. Quite widely distributed on 23rd particularly along the coast.

The main arrival occurred during April with ten at Spurn on 19th when 29 were at Flamborough and 12 at Filey. 24 at Flamborough on 22nd with 12 there on 23rd when 16 were at Spurn with 20 at this latter location on 24th. 22 at Spurn on 1st May with 11 on 4th, 6th and 14th whilst 16 were reported from Flamborough on 3rd. Inland 18 were at Norwood Lane (V.C. 64) on 17th April with 10 at Whitley Common on 1st.

No comments concerning breeding were received from V.C. 65 or V.C. 62 but V.C. 64 reported an apparent decline in the Harrogate area with only one pair proven as breeding though elsewhere the status was considered to be normal. Breeding records sparse in V.C. 63 with pairs at four locations around Huddersfield and reported from six areas near Halifax during the breeding season.

Autumn passage was normal with 17 at Spurn on 17th August, 17 again on 26th when 30 were reported from Filey with 55 at Flamborough; 19 at Spurn on 27th, 18 at Flamborough; 23 at Spurn on 28th with 48 at Flamborough and 22 at this latter location on 29th, 36 on 30th and 13 the following day whilst only between four and eight at Spurn during these dates.

Small numbers during September with 13 at Spurn on 15th and nine at Flamborough on 20th.

Records in late October came from Wath Colliery and Tophill Low Res. on 26th; Spurn with two on 27th; Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 28th and 29th with one at Sammy's Point Kilnsea on 29th. One of the birds at Spurn Point on 27th remained there until 1st November.

Birds resembling those of the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoa* were reported from Flamborough with single birds on 12th May and 4th October and two on 13th May; from Thorpe Marsh with three on 11th May, single birds on 13th to 15th with two on 16th.

### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

The first arrival of the year was a female at Barden Moor on 15th March with one at Digley on 19th thereafter birds present at this latter site with eight on 4th April and 11 on 11th April. The only other March records were of single birds at Angram on 29th and Long Preston on 30th.

Four were reported from Filey on 18th April with eight there the following day when nine were recorded at Flamborough; during this period two were present at Spurn Point. Four remained at Filey on 20th with two at Flamborough. A further small influx occurred on 3rd May with six at Filey and eight at Flamborough.

Breeding was proven from only three sites in V.C. 64 though pairs were present at many locations and no doubt far more pairs bred. V.C. 63 suggested that this species was scarcer than in previous years with proven breeding at only one location in the

Halifax area; one near Huddersfield and two near Sheffield. No comments were received from the North York Moors area of V.C. 62 or V.C. 65.

The last to be reported inland was from Digley on 8th October with coastal records from Atwick; Spurn Point and Flamborough on 12th; Sunk Island, Flamborough and Spurn on 13th with one at Spurn on the following two days with the last bird of the year at Spurn Point on 1st November.

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

85 at Wilsic during January was the highest count reported anywhere during the early months with 80+ at Fairburn on 4th January. 75 at Wilsic throughout February and March; 40 at Flamborough on 15th March with a similar number at Spurn Point on 1st January. 25 were reported at a garden feeding station at North Anston on 5th January with 45 there the following day and 53 on 16th February.

130 at Flamborough on 19th April indicated passage with up to 41 present at Spurn during the period 18th to 20th; an increase also noted at Filey during this period.

Breeding apparently normal though 20 pairs at Fairburn Ings represented a forty per cent increase over 1985; 124 counted in Sandall Beat on 23rd June. A report in the York Evening Press told of a bird sitting on eggs in the centre of the city on 15th January.

Autumn numbers a little higher with immigration occurring during mid October when 100 to 260 were reported from Spurn between 11th and 19th whilst Flamborough reported 100 on 12th; 222 on 13th when 40 were at Filey: 440 at Flamborough on 16th with 195 the following day and 180 on 18th. On 13th, 100+ were reported on British Gas Platform 47/3B, grounded in thick fog. An influx noted at Hornsea towards the end of the month with 60 on 27th and 28th and 70 on 29th. 82 at Sunk Island on 2nd November with 50 there on 9th. 95 at Flamborough on 2nd with 120 on 4th when 100 were at Spurn whilst 110 at the latter location on 13th and 120 at Flamborough the following day.

Numbers inland also slightly larger than the early months with 119 at Wath on 4th October; 125 there on 2nd November; 100+ at Spotbrough in both August and October whilst at Thorpe Marsh 100+ were reported on 16th December. 120+ at Fairburn Ings on 29th November.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Few large flocks during January or February excepting 800+ at Sprotbrough on 1st January; 1000+ at Thorpe Marsh on 6th; 500 near Skipton on 1st; 400 at Fairburn on 3rd and 4th with 300 at Stourton, Leeds on 5th. No other records of more than 200 birds were received for this period. March saw slightly more numbers with 350 at Pool Paper Mills on 22nd; 500 at Bishop Thornton on 23rd, 500 at Porter Clough, Sheffield on 15th; flocks of 500 on 15th, 450 on 22nd in the Ingbirchworth area whilst a total of 1000 in that vicinity on 29th. 600 at Beverley on 26th. 750 near Ingbirchworth on 4th April with 750 at Westwick on 9th and 18th 500 at Gunthwaite with 600 there on 18th and 350 on 24th. Few flocks reported in May with 30 at Chelker on 2nd as the largest. The last reported bird being at Spurn Point on 19th.

Returning birds were recorded at Filey and Spurn on 26th August with a second bird at Spurn on 28th. These were followed by a single at Bolton Abbey on 7th September; three at Otley on 12th thereafter one or two birds at Spurn on four days during the month; a single at Eccup on 27th with 50 at Staveley on 30th being well in advance of the autumnal influx which was noted along the coast at Spurn, Filey and Flamborough on 23rd and 24th October. Spurn reporting 274; Flamborough 180 and Filey 31 off the sea on 23rd with 456 in off the sea at Spurn; 900 at Flamborough and 322 at Filey on 24th. The following day 230 flew west at Sunk Island with 130 at Ingbirchworth. On 26th 250 at Sunk Island; 133 west at Drop Clough with 450 at Gouthwaite and 100 to 200 at several other locations in V.C. 64. 495 flying west over Redmires Res. on 28th with 798 to the west there on 31st.

Spurn Point reported 170 birds on 1st November with 130 flying west along the Humber at Sunk Island where 700 flew west the following day though hardly any birds were recorded at Spurn. This day, 2nd November, saw a very large westerly movement inland which had not been reported from the coast. 9888 over Redmires Res; 7700 over Strines; 6500 at Knaresborough Ringing Station; 600 at Keswick Fitts; 550 at Leighton Res; 400 at Langsett; 400 at Nostell; 400 at Bishop Monkton; 1485 at Thrybergh; 1270 west and 1000 grounded at Wath whilst many locations reported between 100 and 200. On the 4th 780 were reported from Figham near Beverley with 500 there on 9th.

A second movement occurred in the middle of the month with 2015 west at Rivelin and Redmires on 12th; 2676 at Redmires on 15th when 357 also flew west at Sunk Island; between 1500 and 2000 at Rigton Hill, Bardsey and 250 west at Blacktoft. 1000 at another location near Bardsey on 19th whilst other flocks reported were 1150 at Wath on 23rd; 800+ at Thorpe Marsh on 28th; 620 at Gouthwaite on 6th.

Fewer flocks during December with 300 to 400 at Wath during the first week; 600 at Roecliffe on 4th; 450 at Fairburn on 7th; 350 at Lemonroyd on 11th and 200 at Thrybergh on 12th; Carthick Wood also on 12th; Hetchell Woods on 14th and Skipton S.W. on 25th.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Small numbers during the early months with 35 at Wilsic during January as the highest count. 25 present at Spurn on 1st January whilst the cold weather brought 17 to feed on snails on the cliff face at Filey on 1st March. 16 were recorded at Flamborough on 19th April whilst on the same date at Spurn 19 were present.

Immigration noted along the coast with the exception of Flamborough who reported the worst year ever. 40 at Filey on 5th October with 30 at Sunk Island that same day. Double figures counts at Spurn during the period 5th to 17th October with 62 on 17th as the maximum. 50 grounded during thick fog on 13th October on Gas Platform 47/3B some 15 miles of Withernsea.

Inland, flocks were recorded from Wilsic with 50 in December; 80+ at Thorpe Marsh on 16th December; 42 in Sandall Beat during June; 30 at Sprotbrough Flash in August. Fairburn Ings showed signs of an autumnal influx with 32 counted on 21st October; 95 on 26th November and 42 on 7th December.

With the exception of Flamborough and Tophill Low Res. where there were many fewer records, numbers would appear to be unchanged.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Average flocks during January though quite scarce during the following two months except for small numbers visiting gardens. The 1st January saw 800+ at Sprotbrough Flash as by far the highest count of the early months with 250 at Knotford Nook on 25th and 250 at Lightcliffe on 16th; 200 at Broomhead on 11th; 125 at Fairburn on 4th and 140 at Pugney's the same day. 120 at Horsforth on 25th with 100 at Stourton on 5th.

Spring passage was light with 150 over Gouthwaite on 28th March and 100 at Horsforth on 16th, the highest counts along the coast being 67 at Grimston on 20th April with 65 at Flamborough on 19th. Several locations reported single birds in mid May with the last of the spring being at Flamborough on 21st.

A single bird observed in Dalby Forest on 26th June was not seen on the next visit on 30th.

One at Spurn on 14th September was the first of the autumn followed by 40 at Staveley and High Batts N.R. on 20th and 21st. Single at Spurn Point on 23rd; seven on 24th with 14 on 25th when seven were at Esholt S.W.

An influx during early October with 250 at Flamborough on 5th on which date 100 were reported from Spurn; 430 at Flamborough on 12th and 350 at Spurn with 146 at Flamborough on 13th whilst 250 were reported at Spurn. During this period up to 250 were reported from Sunk Island whilst on 17th Flamborough had their highest count of the year with 615 decreasing to 150 the following day when Filey recorded their year's

maximum with 115. 300 at Flamborough on 23rd with 150 at Spurn. On this same day 160 were present at Sunk Island.

Inland 300 flew over Ilkley Moor on 10th October during one ten minute spell; 300 at Hetchell Woods on 16th October; 363 west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th; 200 at Gouthwaite on 25th and 228 west at Drop Clough on 26th.

A second influx occurred on 2nd November with 150 west along the Humber at Sunk Island though smaller counts along the coast at Flamborough and Spurn but inland 334 flew west at Strines and 373 in the same direction at Redmires.

Flocks during the latter part of the year not particularly large except for 800+ at Thorpe Marsh on 2nd December; 150+ at Fairburn Ings on 29th November; 120 at Mickletown Ings on 2nd December and 200+ at Almholme on 16th November.

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Only small flocks reported during the early months of the year with nowhere reporting more than ten birds.

The latter half of the year produced larger flocks with 20 at Sprotbrough Flash during June; 32 at Naburn on 23rd July; 38 at Oakwood (Leeds) on 30th; 45 at Wath/Broomhill on 9th August; 28 at Tophill Low Res. during the last three weeks of this month. 38 at Thrybergh on 29th had increased to 41 by 2nd September; 40 at Fulford on 4th September; 30 at Bardsey on 13th; 55 at Redmires on 27th with 38 at York on 6th and 27th: 50 present in the Little Don Valley on 2nd October with 30 at Gouthwaite on 25th.

#### **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

A single at Blacktoft Sands on 24th April with birds at seven other locations before the end of the month. Generally speaking this year was the best for some time although the Doncaster area reported less than usual records and less than normal in Sheffield and numbers still down on a few years ago at Winterset. Blacktoft Sands with possibly 12 breeding pairs and the Firbeck/Tickhill area with at least eight were the best for several years. Cowden Range reported 19 singing males on 5th June and would still appear to be the stronghold in the county. Reported breeding at a further 11 locations, with possible breeding occurring at a further five.

August records include single birds at Blacktoft on 16th; Ravenfield on 19th; Flamborough on 26th with one caught at Spurn on 17th being the only record there this year. Single at Potteric Carr on 15th September with a very late bird at Flamborough on 9th October.

#### **Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*

A single male at Flamborough on 27th April (JCL) – the third record for the area. One heard singing on the night of 1st May at Blacktoft but was not located on further days (AG).

#### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

An early record at Cromwell Bottom near Brighouse on 12th April after which the next were two birds at Tophill Low Res. and a single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 24th. Birds were reported at several locations before the end of the month; Horbury and Hornsea Mere on 26th; Fairburn Ings, Broomfleet Ponds, Stone Creek, Old Denaby on 27th; Winterset on 28th; Micklefield on 29th and Saltend and Potteric Carr on 30th. By mid May the species was well distributed in all areas.

In V.C. 61; Hornsea Mere reported about 50 breeding pairs with a good breeding season reported from Flamborough and some 30 pairs at Tophill Low Res. where the status was reported as unchanged. An improvement reported from the York area.

c65 pairs at Blacktoft Sands though success was poor owing to cold and wet conditions. An increase of some 50 per cent at Fairburn Ings to 34 pairs with six or seven pairs at Mickletown; eight at Ripon Parks; five at Hay-a-Park and smaller numbers at several other locations.

Recorded in September on 14th at Tophill Low Res.; Winterset Res.; Golcar; Stone Creek and Fairburn Ings, on 21st from Sprotbrough Flash; 27th at Spurn Point and Thorpe Marsh with the last of the year at Blacktoft Sands on 30th.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

A single bird, trapped at Flamborough, was present there from 27th to 29th June. (PAL: JMP: AMA *et al*). The fourth record for the county.

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

A single bird at Flamborough on 18th May (AMA: DGH) with a singing male at Blacktoft Sands on 7th June remaining there until 24th (AG *et al*). Three singing males at Flamborough on 14th June (AMA: DGH: PAL: JCL) with a single there on 28th August (PAL)

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The only birds reported in April were singles at Mickletown Ings on 26th; at Pugney's on 29th and Blacktoft on the following day. The main arrival taking place between 3rd and 10th May by which date birds were widespread throughout the southern half of the county.

Well distributed throughout V.C. 61 with no apparent change in status except for the first ever breeding record from Flamborough Head where a single pair bred successfully at Thornwick Bay, young being present during August.

Very few breeding occurrences reported from V.C. 62 with two pairs at Castle Howard and two pairs also at Strensall Common. A single bird at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 7th May, about the most northerly location for this species in the county.

An estimated 350 pairs at Blacktoft Sands where breeding success was reported as relatively good in the better conditions of July and August. A record 16 singing males at Winterset with reports of good breeding in the Doncaster area.

In V.C. 64 all records were centred around the lower Aire Valley between Fairburn and Leventhorpe or in the Harrogate area at Hay-a-Park and Staveley. Exceptions were two juveniles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th August and a single bird at Healaugh Pond on 29th June. Fairburn recorded 22 during June which constituted a fifty per cent decrease on 1985; 14 at Mickletown Ings on 23rd June with four pairs at Hay-a-Park.

The last birds reported were singles at Blacktoft on 11th October and at Winterset Res. on 19th.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

Three single birds during late spring at Flamborough on 17th June (PAL) and at Spurn on 8th and 18th.

A fall at Flamborough in mid August with three on 11th (PAL: MJP), five the following day (PAL: NAP: JMP), three on 13th (PAL) with a single bird on 14th (PAL: DAR: MJP). Single birds at Grimston on 23rd (TI) and Kilnsea on 24th (GJS) when there was also a single bird at Spurn. Further single birds at Spurn on the 25th and 26th; 27th and 28th whilst at Scarborough one was present on the Castle Hill on 27th and one at Flamborough on 28th (RHA: PAL).

A single bird trapped in Filey Country Park on 31st August was still present on 11th September when it was re trapped along with a second bird which remained until 13th (HJW: TIC: TLH). Single birds at Spurn on 14th and 17th September.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

A single first summer female trapped at Spurn Point on 17th May was seen daily until 20th and then again on 24th and 25th. (JH: BRS: JCW *et al* ). The seventh record for the Observatory

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

Single birds at Flamborough on 11th; 12th and 13th August. A further single bird there on 23rd when one was also reported from Spurn Point followed by two at Spurn on 24th. Singles at both locations on 25th with four at Flamborough on 26th (PAL); IS:JCL) when a single bird was reported at Kilnsea (PH). Five at Flamborough on 28th (PAL) with single birds at Kilnsea and Spurn; two at the latter location on 29th with singles at Kilnsea and Spurn on 30th when two were at Flamborough. Two at Flamborough the following day and a single at Spurn.

In September, single birds at Spurn on the 1st; Flamborough on the 2nd; Spurn from 21st to 23rd and Kilnsea on 26th. Singles at Flamborough on 9th October (JCL) and at Atwick on 12th (WFC) with one trapped and ringed at Spurn on 17th being released at the Warren remaining in the vicinity until 6th November though not seen daily. A single bird was also at Flamborough on this last date (JCL). Reported as the best year ever at Flamborough for this species.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Singles at Broomfleet Ponds on 24th April and Winterset Res. were the first of the year followed by three at Spurn Point and a single at Fairburn Ings the following day. By the end of the month birds had appeared at 15 locations with the main arrival occurring during the first ten days of May. An influx was noted along the coast on the 1st May with ten at Spurn and 25 at Flamborough; 19 at Flamborough on 2nd with six at Spurn then on 3rd; 12 at Spurn; six at Filey and 68 at Flamborough which is the highest count for that location. Only six present there on 4th though increasing to 24 on 5th. During this period six were reported from Sunk Island on 3rd with five there on 4th.

A normal breeding season reported from V.C. 64 where this species is stated to be well distributed in the eastern half of the V.C. Continues to spread and increase in V.C. 63. No comments received from the other V.C.s.

The autumn produced very small numbers along the coast though inland in the Doncaster area, 20 were recorded from Thorpe Marsh on 4th August with 20+ at Old Denaby on 12th.

Birds of the Siberian race *S.c. blythi* were trapped at Flamborough on 5th/6th October and 3rd to 8th November (PAL:JMP: *et al*). A bird showing all the characteristics of this race joined the latter bird at Flamborough from 6th to 8th November (PAL: JCL) whilst one seen briefly at Paull on 27th September may well have also belonged to this race. (SML).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Spurn Point recorded the first bird of the year on 25th April followed by two there on 26th and singles at Sprotbrough Flash; Wilsic and Flamborough the same day. Light coastal passage during early May with 17 at Flamborough on the 3rd and eight on 17th. Nine at Wath Ings on 9th and 16 at Old Denaby on 18th.

V.C. 63 reported slightly increased numbers although in some locations singing males moved on after May. Ten pairs bred at Wath/Broomhill with 16 pairs at Winterset whilst breeding occurred at Blacktoft for the first time.

In V.C. 64 numbers were reported as still being very low at Esholt though elsewhere in the V.C. there was definitely an increase in breeding birds and singing males with 14 singing between Ripon and South Staveley on the disused railway line; 14 singing at Hopewell House Farm.

No comment from V.C. 61 but 17 at Stone Creek/Cherry Cobb Sands on 6th July with the breeding population considered to be about ten pairs. Did not breed at Hornsea Mere where still quite scarce.

Light autumnal passage with between 13 and 20 at Spurn during the second half of August; 10 at Flamborough on 26th; 15 at Sunk Island on 16th with eight there on 21st. Ten at Spurn on 1st September.

Single at Wath on 22nd September with one to two at Spurn to 28th; single at Stone Creek on 27th; two at Winterset on 28th with the last bird of the year at Spurn on 7th October.

#### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

The only records during April were of a single bird at Hobmoor on 20th and two at Rivelin Hagg on 27th. Most birds arrived during the second week of May with light passage recorded along the coast, only Flamborough reporting double figures with 18 on 16th; ten on 17th and 11 the following day.

22 singing males were located in the Huddersfield area whilst six pairs bred at Winterset and eight at Finningley Park. It is considered that there were rather fewer in these well watched areas than usual. A normal year reported from V.C. 64.

Autumn produced very large numbers on the 26th August when in very poor weather some 90 to 100 were reported from Filey of which 35 were trapped; Flamborough reported 120 which is the highest count ever from any location in Yorkshire. This fall was not reported from Spurn where there were less than ten recorded this day. 45 were still present at Flamborough on 27th though at Filey only six could be found. c30 were however reported from Castle Hill, Scarborough whilst on 30th 20 were recorded at Filey. The numbers at Flamborough continued to decrease with 25 on 28th and 15 on 29th.

Inland, late birds were reported from Winterset on 3rd October and Rivelin Hagg on 15th whilst along the coast, three at Filey on 4th, a single at Flamborough on 6th and two there on 12th. Single birds recorded regularly at Spurn until 26th with two there on 11th whilst the last bird of the year was at Flamborough on 3rd November.

#### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Overwintering continues to be a more obvious or better observed feature with single birds reported from some 30 locations; three being recorded in a garden in Huddersfield on 1st January and two at Almondbury during March. A similar picture during the latter months with generally single birds being involved though two were at Esholt on 14th December and two in the Botanical Gardens at Sheffield. Two were also reported from three unnamed locations in V.C. 64.

A single bird at Adel Dam on 9th April may have been an early migrant whilst the next was a single at Wath on 13th followed by single birds at Wentworth and Pugney's on 17th; Sprotbrough on 18th; Knotford Nook on 19th and Fairburn on 20th.

Numbers considered to be slightly down in some areas of V.C. 64. Quite widespread in V.C. 63 though with the exception of the Sheffield area the indication is of a slight decrease. No comments from the other V.C.s.

Small numbers along the coast during autumn with 13 at Spurn on 5th October; 28 there on 13th with 18 at Flamborough; 13 at Filey the following day. Nine at Flamborough on 3rd November. A rather early peak was of c20 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 27th August.

#### **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

A single bird trapped at Spurn Point on 26th August was present until 28th, a second bird there on the first date only.

The trapped bird has been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee whilst the second is still under consideration.

#### **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*

A single bird at Flamborough on 26th August being the second record for this location and the sixth for Yorkshire. (PAL: IS)

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Single birds at Filey and Spurn Point on 2nd and 3rd November. (JH *et al.*)

Both accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Single birds at Flamborough on 6th October (PAL) and on 12th October (DIMW). Neither of these records has yet been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Single birds at Spurn Point and Flamborough on 24th September with two at Flamborough on 25th and three on 26th on which date one was trapped at Hornsea and a single was reported from Filey. The 27th saw a single at Spurn with four at Filey and seven at Flamborough. Singles at Flamborough on 28th and at Spurn on 29th.

October saw an influx on the 5th with two at Spurn Point; Two at Kilnsea; six at Filey and 13 at Flamborough whilst a single was on Castle Hill, Scarborough. On the 6th, a single at Spurn, one at Kilnsea which remained until the 8th; two at Grimston; two at Filey and seven at Flamborough. Singles at Spurn and Grimston on 7th with five at Flamborough. Five still at Flamborough on 8th with another single bird at Grimston and at Spurn. Two at Flamborough on 9th and singles at Kilnsea and Filey on 10th. A single at Filey on 11th when four were reported from Flamborough whilst on 12th five were recorded at this latter location with one at Spurn which remained until 13th. On this date a second bird was located at Spurn with a single at Kilnsea; three at Filey and six at Flamborough. Three still at Filey on 14th with the same number at Flamborough. A single bird at Flamborough on 15th with two still at Filey, remaining until 16th when two were also at Flamborough. Single birds at Flamborough on 17th and 19th.

In November single birds were reported from Kilnsea on 2nd and 3rd; from Hull Docks on 2nd to 4th and from Flamborough on 3rd.

This was, without doubt, the finest year on record for this species with some 45 individuals being reported from Flamborough; about 17 at Filey and possibly as many as 14 at Spurn/Kilnsea, thus as many as 80 may have been recorded in the county.

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

A single bird was trapped at Flamborough on 5th October and constitutes the fourth record for this locality and the sixth for Yorkshire (AMA: PAL: JMP *et al.*)

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Reported in April from Ewden on 25th; Fairburn on 27th with one in Adel Woods on 29th and at Wass on 30th. By the second week of May birds were quite widespread particularly in the Sheffield, Harrogate and Huddersfield areas. A definite increase in records reported from the Harrogate area with an increase to a lesser extent around Leeds whilst in the Huddersfield area 33 singing males were recorded though many only stayed in the area for a few days. 20 were reported from Bolton Abbey on 17th May.

For the first time bred in the York Ornithological Club area to the south of the city at Brayton Barff. Success in other areas of the county were varied with some failing due to weather. Towards the east of the county breeding was reported as good in Forge Valley and Wass in V.C. 62. Few records from V.C. 61 with two at Flamborough on 15th May otherwise only single birds were reported from Sunk Island; Spurn Point (on three days); Flamborough on six other days and Grimston, during May and from five locations during autumn.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Only two birds reported during the early winter months, at Hunmanby on 9th and 17th January and Fairburn Ings on 26th.

The first migrants appeared towards the end of March with a single bird at Potteric Carr on 19th and two at Old Denaby on 22nd on which date a single bird was reported from Winterset. One at Flamborough on 26th thereafter fairly widespread during the last four days of the month.

Breeding apparently unchanged throughout all areas with both autumn and spring passage along the coast reported as being light.

Autumn birds showing the characteristics of one of the various eastern races were reported from several locations along the coast. Eight at Spurn on 2nd November were considered to be of eastern origin whilst at Flamborough birds thought to be of the race *P.c. abietinus* were recorded during mid October with two on 12th and four the following day. 14 there on 2nd November with eight on the 3rd and six on 4th; an increase to 14 on 6th; seven on 7th and 16 on 8th. However 25 birds there on 3rd November more resembled birds of the race *P.c. tristis* than *abietinus*. A single bird of the race *tristis* was caught at Filey on 8th October whilst another there on 3rd November was attributed to the race *abietinus*.

Probable over wintering birds were reported from Hunmanby on 19th December; Winterset on 13th December; Golcar on 7th and Wentworth on 29th December and from Esholt; Fairburn Ings; Knaresborough and Swinsty Res. during December.

### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first of the year was reported from Hatfield on 3rd April followed by one at Fairburn Ings on 4th. One at Linthwaite on 11th thence from Esholt, Spurn Point, Filey and Sprotbrough on 16th. By the end of the month birds were widespread with the largest influx of the spring being noted along the coast on 3rd May when Spurn recorded 65, Flamborough 233+, Filey at least 30 with 18 along the Humber at Sunk Island.

Sample counts gave some 200 birds in the Huddersfield area with 150+ at Carthick Wood/Keswick Fitts on 19th July. Most areas reported a good breeding season with a single pair breeding at Blacktoft Sands, the first ever for that location. Since ringing began at Blackmoorfoot in the early 1970s the total of 374 trapped this year was a record thus also indicating a successful breeding season.

Autumn passage normal with the highest numbers being reported during the last week of August. 60 at Sunk Island on 23rd with 80 there the following day. 120 on 25th whilst at Flamborough 120 were reported on 26th when Filey had 50. 60 at Flamborough on 27th and 85 there on 28th when Spurn Point had 76. Thereafter small numbers though at Flamborough 30 were reported on 12th and 20th September.

Single birds at Flamborough on 11th October; Spurn Point on 13th and Esholt on 21st whilst a very late bird was reported from Flamborough on 15th November. (AMA: DGH).

### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Although very few comments were received concerning breeding, all areas commented on small flocks and a very poor autumn. The largest party recorded being of 60 birds at Lindley Res. Wood on 27th November with 30 at Tophill Low Res. during the early months and a similar number at Otley Chevin on 4th January.

The autumnal influx did not occur with the highest counts along the coast being 21 at Flamborough on 13th October; 60 at Spurn Point on 12th and 25 there on 13th.

### **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

A single bird at Flamborough on 29th March; two at Spurn Point on 16th April with singles at both Spurn and Flamborough on 20th. A single male at Scarborough Castle Hill on 22nd with one at Filey on 24th remaining in the area until 27th. Single at Spurn on 28th. A male singing at Grimston on 19th May whilst earlier in the month single birds were reported from Flamborough on 2nd and 5th.

Fewer records during the autumn with three at Spurn on 5th October and single birds there on 6th and 7th to 10th. The only other records were of single birds at Flamborough on 8th and 9th and the only inland record for the year from Lindley Wood Res. on 27th November (PJC)

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Two single birds were reported during April; from Bishop Monkton on 24th and Potteric Carr on 26th after which the next bird was from Sunk Island on 3rd followed by singles at Flamborough, Clapham and Summerbridge on 4th. Most areas received their first birds between 5th and 15th May with the peak of the coastal passage occurring during the fourth week of the month when Flamborough recorded 14 on 20th; 10 on 24th on which date Filey had 15; 16 at Flamborough on 25th with 14 on 26th and 27th and 15 on 31st.

V.C. 63 reported low numbers in the Huddersfield area and also in the Sheffield area although considered to be under recorded there. Other areas in V.C. 63 however considered the numbers to have decreased. A similar indication was received from V.C. 65 though V.C. 64 considered this to have been a very good year with increases in reports and breeding in both the Leeds and Harrogate areas. 25 were reported from Bolton Abbey on 27th May. No comments received from V.C. 61 or V.C. 62.

Autumn passage along the coast was very light with nowhere reporting more than single figure counts. The last of the year being reported from Spurn Point on 12th October.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

A first year male was reported from Spurn Point on 17th May remaining until the following day.

A single at Filey on 13th September with one at Kilnsea on 18th and at Spurn Point on 19th. Two at Filey on 25th with a single at Kilnsea the same day. A single at Flamborough on 26th with one of the Filey birds being located also this day. Another single bird at Filey on 5th October whilst Flamborough had single birds 8th; 12th and 13th, two on 17th and singles again on 18th and 23rd. Finally a single at Spurn on 2nd November.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Singles at Broomhead Woods on 25th and at Fountains Abbey on 30th were the only April records. These were followed by a single at Spurn Point on 1st May; Flamborough on 2nd and Brocadale on 4th. Spring passage was light, in fact Filey had no spring record, though by mid month birds were widespread.

Reported to have had a good breeding season in V.C. 64, the stronghold of the species; 10 pairs in the Washburn Valley rearing 53 young whilst 15 males were reported from Bolton Abbey on 27th May.

V.C. 63 remains very much a fringe area for this species with very few birds despite good populations to the south in Derbyshire and the north in the Wharfe Valley of V.C. 64. Apparently no change in the dales of the North York Moors.

Good autumn passage with a fall noted on 26th August along the more northerly parts of the coast. Prior to this fall 16 were at Spurn on 11th with 22 at Flamborough where 26 were recorded the following day. Only two birds at Flamborough on 25th but on 26th 150 were reported with 40 at Filey though Spurn only recorded 16. Numbers at Flamborough had decreased to 65 on 27th with a corresponding decrease at Filey though 12 were reported from Scarborough. 20 at Spurn on 28th with 130 at Flamborough; 40 on 29th; 32 on 30th and eight on 31st whilst at Filey 15 were still present from the fall of the 26th.

Smaller numbers during September with 13 at Flamborough on 27th being the only record of double figures received along the coast.

The last of the year were two at Flamborough on 12th October and singles at Spurn on 14th and Kilnsea on 16th and 17th.

### **Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

The stronghold of this species in the county, Blacktoft Sands, reported fewer than usual in March despite apparently having survived the winter well. Few were considered to have returned from wintering sites elsewhere with the result that only some 60 pairs were breeding being considerably down on the 90 pairs present in 1985. Breeding success was moderate from first broods poor from second broods but better from third broods. High numbers were present from mid September until early November though no exact counts were reported. In excess of 100 remained through December with much activity noted. The only other record from V.C. 63 was of a male at Potteric Carr on 5th January.

In V.C. 61 reported from Spurn Point but only in October with eight on 16th which flew north; six south thence north on 26th with possibly the same six present towards the northern end of the peninsula on 27th and 28th with a further three near the lighthouse on this latter date. Five at least on 29th with seven on 30th and finally six south with three later near the point on 31st.

Hornsea Mere reported single birds on 4th January and 27th September with one to two birds on nine occasions between 22nd October and the end of the year. Two at Saltend on 23rd February with up to eight to 22nd March thence two on 23rd. Two on 12th October and a single bird on 18th December. At Easington/Kilnsea Lagoons eight were present on 12th October with two on 20th to 22nd October plus one heard calling there on 6th November. Two at Broomfleet Ponds on 1st January with three on 8th; four on 11th March; six on 3rd November and 13th December. Not the usual numbers reported along the Humber as in previous autumns. Four at Hempholme near Tophill Low Res. on 22nd February.

A pair was reported from two locations in the York area early in the year though not reported during the breeding season; the location was not reported.

### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Not widely reported from V.C. 61, only Tophill Low Res. reporting large flocks with up to 25 present during the early months and slightly larger counts towards the end of the year; 40 on 7th September being the maximum. 14 at Flamborough on 26th January with 11 there on 4th November and again on 8th. Nine at Hornsea on 4th and 5th November with smaller numbers elsewhere.

In the York area, 20 at Bishop Wood on 4th April and 37 at Kexby Bridge on 28th August being the highest counts.

In V.C. 63 the largest numbers were reported during the early months with 40 in the Coxley Valley on 5th January; 30+ at Thorpe Marsh on 18th March; 30 at Bretton Park on 16th February with 28 there on 5th January and 20 in Listerdale Woods on 4th January. The lack of really large flocks during the latter months would suggest that numbers may have been affected by the cold February and that fewer were left to breed although few local societies commented thus.

In V.C. 64 it appeared to have suffered in some areas as a result of the severe weather during January to March but had a good breeding season. 20+ at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 1st January with 15 at Fairburn on 15th January being the highest whilst at the latter end of the year flocks of 20+ were commonplace with 50 at High Batts on 30th November and 40 at Lindley Wood Res. on 2nd October.

40 on East Moors in V.C. 62 on 10th December being the highest count from that V.C. whilst no comments were received from V.C. 65

### **Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

Very scarce in the east of V.C. 61 with a single bird at Spurn Point on 10th August being only the fifth record for the Observatory. Single birds reported from Hornsea Mere on 4th, 5th and 26th October and 19th November. Two at Saltend on 23rd February. Towards the western part of this V.C. birds were present all year at Warter Priory; Primrose Wood near Pocklington; Nunburnholme; Fulford; Brandsby; Skipwith and Wheldrake, breeding taking place at several if not all of these locations.

Occasionally reported from V.C. 62 with birds being mostly reported from the York area at Castle Howard and Strensall Common.

The only records from V.C. 63 were from the Doncaster areas where birds were reported from Sprotbrough on three days; two at Roche Abbey on 11th January; with singles at Clayton on 2nd March and at Wilsic on 11th October where three were recorded on 25th October.

Almost all the records from V.C. 64 were from the eastern part excepting a few around the Upper Wharfe centred at Grass Woods. The highest count from any location was ten at Fountains Abbey/Studley Park on 17th February; eight at Birkham Wood during September and seven at Gallow Hill, Knaresborough in early October. It is considered that there is no change in status.

#### **Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

In V.C. 61 recorded breeding at Pulfin Bog; Allerthorpe Common; Naburn; Lower Derwent; Fulford and at four sites near Brandsby. One to two birds reported from Tophill Low Res; Bampton; Paull; Hornsea Mere; Spurn Point and Cowden.

Occasionally recorded in V.C. 62 with five at Cow House Bank on 5th March and four at Sproxtton on 10th August.

In V.C. 63 considered to be scarcer around the Halifax and Huddersfield areas though the situation around Sheffield is not altogether clear as it is thought that this species is under reported. Still common in the Winterset area and well distributed around Doncaster with 17 at Wath/Broomhill on 21st February; 11 at Sprotbrough Flash on 9th June with 12 at Thorpe Marsh on 5th August and 12+ in Finningley Park during the latter months of the year.

A slight decline in V.C. 64 possibly due to the severe weather early in the year though this species has never been as common as the previous in the Harrogate area and numbers have fallen in the Leeds area during the last few years. Nine were at Fairburn Ings on 13th February with eight at Black Carr Woods on 20th July. Only noted on 18 days at High Batts compared with 98 days for the previous species.

#### **Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

The only breeding records from V.C. 61 were at Tophill Low Res. where one pair was unsuccessful; from Naburn; Fulford and Skipwith Common though no comments on any of these last three. Four at Hornsea Mere on 14th September and 4th October with two elsewhere in Hornsea throughout the year and recorded throughout the year at Grimston.

Well distributed and quite common in areas of forestry along the periphery of the North York Moors; 15 in a mixed flock of tits on Yearsley Moor.

In V.C. 63, quite common and flourishing in the conifers of Pennine slopes and valleys though considered to be under recorded in some areas. An exceptional flock of 70 at Yateholme on 14th December.

Considered to have suffered in V.C. 64 during the cold weather of the early months though 12 were present in an Adel garden during February. A good breeding season resulted in 25+ at Eccup on 25th July and 37 on 10th August though only small numbers were reported from other locations.

#### **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Flocks during the early months were 60 at Bramley Fall Woods on 26th January; 48 at Wykebeck, Leeds on 8th February; 44 at Wath on 21st February; 40 at Wilsic during January and at Filey on 24th February. Flock sizes in V.C. 63 reported as being of moderate size with 85 at North Dean Wood near Halifax on 16th August though 63 were trapped at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th July, this being a record number for one day. V.C. 64 reported a poor breeding season generally with many pairs deserting eggs or young and those that did succeed producing lower than normal numbers due to the poor weather conditions. Earlier breeders though were more successful with a flock of

150, mainly juveniles, in Adel Woods on 30th June. c100 were reported from the Don Valley near Sprotbrough on 30th November.

In V.C. 61; 50 were at Tophill Low Res. on 5th August with 77 there on 5th December. An influx noted along the coast during the last week of September with 160 at Flamborough on 27th and up to 50 at Filey during this period, no unusual numbers were reported at Spurn during this period. 68 along the Humber at Sunk Island on 4th October with 25 the following day whilst at Flamborough 138 were recorded on 11th and 65 on 18th. The highest count at Hornsea Mere was 50 on 14th September.

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

54 were counted at Sprotbrough on 5th January with 45 at Wilsic during the first four months of the year; 40 in Bretton Park on 5th January.

Apparently did not suffer from the severe weather of the early months as did the previous species. Flocks during the latter months were 56 in North Dean Wood on 11th October with 45+ at Adel Woods on 30th June and 42 at Thorpe Marsh on 11th December.

Along the coast, little passage was reported with 17 at Spurn on 28th March as the highest count during spring and 38 at Flamborough on 11th October. 15 at Sunk Island on 4th October with eight there the following day.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

A single bird on the headland at Flamborough on 1st June was thought to be of the northern race and constitutes the first record for the area. (AMA: PAL: DGH: JCL).

Heard calling at Scampston Park on 12th January and 16th March (BS&SP).

Bred at four locations in the York area; at Forge Valley and Duncombe Park.

Considered to be spreading in the Sheffield area where in addition to being present at two traditional locations was recorded from five other sites. One pair bred near Huddersfield; one near Bingley and one in the Bradford area with birds recorded from some 20 other locations during the year. No breeding reported this year in the Doncaster area.

A single bird at Fairburn Ings on 11th April was the first record for that location. Reported from several garden feeders in the Leeds and Harrogate area. Still increasing in the Leeds area where reported from 28 locations with confirmed breeding at 10. Eight at Bolton Abbey on 25th December with an unusual record from Malham Tarn on 5th April.

No apparent change in V.C. 65 where for the fourth successive year a pair bred in the same dead tree at Wensley.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

No apparent change in status with no significant reports received. The highest count at Flamborough was six on 11th October with no reports of possible northern birds. Single bird at Spurn on 24th August.

#### **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolu*

A single female at Sammy's Point Kilnsea on 24th May (JML: DMP) whilst one singing at Spurn Point on 10th June was seen to depart to the northwest.

#### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A single female at Broomfleet Ponds on 17th June (TAE) whilst single birds were at Flamborough on 13th; 14th; 17th and 18th August. Single juvenile at Spurn Point on 23rd August with further single birds at Flamborough on 26th and 28th August and two there on 29th to 31st (PAL *et al*)

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

The bird wintering near Beverley first reported in November 1985 was recorded on several days until 6th April (PMS). Otherwise a poor showing along the coast with single birds at Flamborough on 13th October (PAL: AG), at Filey Dams on 4th and 5th October (HJW) whilst one flew west at Sunk Island on 15th November (JW).

In V.C. 62, two single birds reported, from Elworth Beck on 5th May (FT) and near Whitby on 14th June (RNH).

Four single birds were recorded in V.C. 63, at Old Denaby on 11th and 12th October; Langsett Quarry on 26th October. One near Winterset Res. was first reported on 4th November, trapped on 14th and remained in the area until 17th. A single flying west over Concord Park, Sheffield on 22nd November.

Single birds at Fairburn Ings on 9th November and at Bouthwaite on 22nd.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

A single bird at Bempton from 22nd to 26th May was seen by many visitors to the Reserve.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Very scarce in the east of the county with seven at Hornsea Mere, the only location where breeding occurred near the coast. Two occasionally at Grimston during the spring with a single at Flamborough on 7th September. Single bird to the west at Paull on 11th October with singles at Tophill Low Res. on 7th May and 26th December.

Although no breeding reported from V.C. 62 up to three birds were recorded throughout the year from Sproxtun; Helmsley and Duncombe Park.

No apparent change in status indicated from V.C. 63 with small parties reported from various locations, more so during the autumn with 12 at Sprotbrough on 18th August; 10 at Calverley Wood near Bradford on 30th August; eight at both Cromwell Bottom near Brighouse on 18th October and Cannon Hall on 4th November. Seven birds reported from Deighton; Potteric Carr, Finningley Park and Wath.

Far more common in V.C. 64 than in previous years, possibly a slow steady increase. Parties of up to nine during the autumn at several locations with 16 at Lindley Wood Res. on 16th October.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Increasing in V.C. 61 along the coast with more records than previous years particularly around Hornsea. Between 17 and 38 roosting at Atwick during January; 25 at Flamborough on 16th January with 40 on 2nd March; 53 on 19th April; 57 on 15th November and 78 on 20th December. 22 at Cowden on 26th January with 22 at Spurn Point on 19th August.

Continues to increase in the Doncaster area with up to 37 present at Wath during the early months. More numerous during the latter part of the year with a roost at Wath increasing to 80 on 29th November being the highest ever count for this district. 50+ at Adwick-le-Street on 5th December. The only breeding record from this area however was of five pairs at Sprotbrough Flash.

A census of the ten kilometre square SK38 which is almost entirely in Yorkshire and includes the major part of the conurbation of Sheffield revealed 809 pairs, a two fold increase over the first census conducted ten years previously. Otherwise, other gatherings reported were 70 at Outlane near Huddersfield on 26th January; 60 at Catcliffe Flash on 14th December and the same number at Winterset Res. on 30th December.

The pattern of roosts in the Leeds area over the past five years appear to have changed from that of a few large ones to several smaller ones with the result that none larger than the 60 at Rodley S.F. during May were reported. 53 at Scotton on 6th October was the largest in the Harrogate area with nowhere else reporting more than 40 with the exception of 127 at Esholt S.W. on 8th February.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Roost numbers in V.C. 61 were very low compared with previous years, 200 at Hornsea Mere being the largest count there, on 14th August. Only Tophill Low Res. with generally 300 though 500 on 1st January; and 1000 on 27th December, reported anything like large numbers but it was considered that most of the 6000 corvids recorded on 20th January were of this species. Counts of 60 on 28th March; 80 on 19th April and 162 on 15th December, all at Flamborough, were considered to relate to continental birds.

Little information received from V.C. 63 with 169 to the southwest over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th January; 200 to 300 in winter flocks near Winterset Res., 300 near Stainton on 27th November.

V.C. 64, likewise reported no really large gatherings with 600 during August and 400 throughout October at High Batts; 500+ in the Denton area during late autumn and in the Tadcaster area, 550 on 25th November, 850 on 18th and 600 on 25th December. Status apparently unchanged.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

The largest gatherings reported were from Tophill Low Res. with 3000 on 1st January and 1st March; 2000 on 16th November, 1500 on 24th November; 1700 on 5th; 4700 on 9th and 3500 on 27th December. 2600 in the Tadcaster area on 28th December with 1500 near Denton during November and December.

The rookery on the high tension pylon at Stocksbridge which held 49 nests in 1985 has increased to 62 with a further 23 nests on nearby pylons.

**Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone*

The roost at Longwood Valley, Huddersfield held a record 415 birds on 18th January whilst a pre roost gathering of 92 was reported from nearby Outlane on 25th January. 66 at Eccup on 1st January with 60+ at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 10th February.

Presumed migrants were reported from Flamborough during both spring and autumn with 22 on 28th March, 100 on 19th April; 190 on 10th October and 60 on 14th December. 29 flew west at Sunk Island on 15th November.

Flocks during the latter months included 63 at Tophill Low Res. on 24th August, an exceptional count for that location; 60+ at Fairburn Ings during November and December; 60 at Almholme on 9th August.

A bird at Kilnsea on 17th November had a white upper breast.

Birds showing the characteristics of Hooded Crow, *C.c. cornix* were reported from Ravenscar; Scalby; Scarborough; Filey; Flamborough; Sewerby; Barmston; Easington and Spurn along the coast, generally single birds though four at Flamborough on 19th April with two there on 10th May. Spurn also recorded two on 28th March and 6th November. The only reports away from the coast were of singles at Weel Tip, near Beverley regularly from 1st January to 10th April; from Catfoss on 30th March and Fylingdales on 21st December. A scarce bird these days.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

The two birds reported from Great Whernside in 1985 were seen again on 25th January (KM) and were quite probably the two birds recorded at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th March. A single bird on Barden Moor on 28th March (KM) with three at Gouthwaite on 31st August (PVI: JEA) and two near Settle on 1st September (BS).

Single birds reported around Fremington Edge, V.C. 65, during October (per Lt. Col. B. Donald)

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A roost of 50000 at West Tanfield on 2nd September building up to 200000 on 2nd November with 20000 in Leeds city centre on 30th September and 15000 at Fairburn Ings on the same date. 12000 at Mickletown Ings during autumn.

The roost at Blacktoft Sands peaked at 10000 during August and September whilst that at Hornsea Mere reached 10500 on 11th September; 10000 in Huddersfield town

centre on 2nd January. 8500 at Flamborough on 15th November though the large roost at Thornwick Bay was not counted.

2900 were recorded coming in off the sea as Spurn on 2nd November whilst 1000 were reported from British Gas Platform 47/3B on 13th October when poor visibility prevailed.

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Again only small numbers at Spurn with 350 on 7th September as the highest count and very little autumn passage; 23 on 26th September being the most reported.

Largest flocks reported being 865 at Wath on 16th August; 450 at Thrybergh on 18th August increasing to 650 by 16th September. 450 at Stone Creek during September being the highest monthly count for that location.

### **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A flock of 200+ at Fairburn Ings during January though otherwise in V.C. 64 regarded as scarce in many areas and would appear to still be on the decline. Few breeding reports received though no doubt overlooked.

Considered to be scarce in V.C. 63 around Bradford and Halifax and not thought to be common near Sheffield or Huddersfield. Much scarcer at Flamborough than in former years with a similar situation at Spurn where 40 on 26th October was the highest count with very little passage noted. Other flocks noted being 70+ at Fairburn in late September; up to 60 at Mickletown Ings during both winters; 60 at Bishop Monkton in December and 50 at Bardsey near Leeds on 10th November.

V.C. 63 reported 70 in the Rother Valley Country Park on 7th December; 50 at Wath during January and 200 at Almholme on 20th August. 65 at Flamborough on 17th October, the highest count reported from V.C. 61.

Recorded at Bolton-on-Swale and East Cowton in V.C. 65 otherwise reported as very local.

### **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

The largest flocks reported were 350 in Bransdale on 20th January; 300 at Lindley Wood Res. on 9th January with 200 at Midhope on 27th March. 170 at The Hollies, Leeds on 13th February; 150 at High Batts on 1st March and a similar number at Eccup on 25th. At least 300 at Spurn Point on 19th March when 100 came into the Warren to leave southwards shortly afterwards whilst 300 were seen to leave to the west from the Point later in the day.

During the latter months up to 150 were reported from Bransdale whilst in V.C. 64 there were few large gatherings, notably, 100 at Eccup; 150 at Hetchell Woods on 28th November; 150 at Golden Acre Park, Leeds on 30th November; 100 at Strid Wood on 26th October.

In V.C. 63, 250 at Hebden Dale near Halifax on 6th December whilst some interesting passage was noted during October with 407 to the west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th. At Drop Clough, Slaithwaite 1138 were counted flying west on 26th October with 1762 and 1263 on the two following days. 950 to the west at Strines in two hours on 29th and 2440 west there in three hours on the 31st.

100 were grounded by fog on British Gas Platform 47/3B on 13th and 14th October; on this former date 150 were reported from Flamborough and 92 were reported at Spurn.

A single leucistic bird (mainly white) was present at Eccup Res. from 9th October until mid November.

### **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Numbers during the early months were quite low with 200 being the highest reported, at Bransdale on 20th January; High Batts 23rd February and from Brompton-on-Swale on 9th February. 70 at Felkirk near Winterset during late January and early February with 50+ at Sprotbrough between 12th and 15th February and 50 at Potteric Carr on

20th. Small numbers reported at many locations until late April with the last being at Spurn point from 2nd to 9th May

A single bird there on 13th September was the first of the autumn with widespread reports by the end of the month. An influx reported along the coast on 5th October with 240 at Flamborough; 104 at Atwick; 40 at Filey; 30 at Scarborough; 50 at Spurn; 115 at Paull where 90 had been present the previous day, and 57 to the east at Sunk Island. The only inland record during this period being of 19 at High Batts on the 5th.

A second influx occurred on the 12th October with 240 again at Flamborough; 41 at Filey; 80 at Spurn and between 10 and 20 at several other coastal locations. The following day 100 were grounded during fog on British Gas Platform 47/3B with 75 still present at Flamborough, the birds at the Gas Platform remaining until 14th. 58 at Spurn on 13th had increased to 63 by 16th when 94 were counted at Flamborough after only 25 on 14th. 150 at Flamborough on 17th falling to 15 on 18th when 61 were reported from Paull.

During the latter part of October a heavy westerly passage occurred at Redmires and Strines described as one of the largest movements ever in the Sheffield area. Between mid October to mid November an estimated 10000 birds were recorded passing through though it is not clear how many were observed from the Derbyshire side of the city. On 28th October 850 flew west at Strines in two hours with 1710 to the west in three hours there on 31st, of which 1100 were counted in 45 minutes. 205 to the west at Redmires on 15th November. Elsewhere in V.C. 63 good numbers were reported from the Ingbirchworth/Broadstones area from 22nd November to the end of the year with 200 on 22nd November, 300 there the following day; 500 on 27th falling to 200 on 30th thence 300 on 10th December and a similar count on 14th with 50 remaining at the end of the year. 200 at Broadstones on 14th December whilst at Royd Moor 300 were recorded on 29th November with 60 present there on 14th December.

Some passage noted in V.C. 64 with 77 to the south at Esholt S.W. on 26th October and 60 south there on 28th otherwise in this V.C. numbers were small with 20 at Parlington Park on 8th October; 27 at High Batts on 2nd November and 20 at Gouthwaite on 16th.

After the influx along the coast during October very few birds remained in either V.C. 61 or 62 with eight at Spurn on 2nd November as the highest count anywhere during the last two months of the year.

### **Serim** *Serinus serinus*

The only records concern single birds, all reported from Spurn Point. A female south at the 'narrow neck' on 11th May (JH *et al*); unsexed bird at the 'narrow neck' on 16th August (RTP: JHn); and the third at the Warren on 17th November which was observed to fly off to the south (DJRP).

### **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Generally small flocks during the early months with 300 at Masham on 12th January and 200 at High Batts during February as by far the highest. 40 at Gouthwaite on 4th March increasing to 50 by 12th April whilst in the Doncaster area. Sprotbrough held 50+ from 15th to 17th January, 40 were reported from Potteric Carr on 29th January and 100 were at Misson on 19th April. 40 to 60 were regularly reported at Atwick during the first two months of the year.

No comments were received concerning the breeding status of this species and is thus assumed to be unchanged.

Numbers during the latter months were of similar magnitude though more widespread with several flocks of between 60 and 100 birds in V.C. 64 and 200 near Bramhope on 5th November with a similar count at Eccup during December.

In V.C. 63, 80 at Morley S.F. on 21st September; 85 at Thrybergh on 24th September; 150 at Greenmoor on 21st August; 200 at Scout Dyke Res. on 30th November, a similar number at Broadstones on 13th December and 100 in Wintersett Country Park on 29th December. 100 present at Scawthorpe during the last two months of the year with

westerly passage noted at Strines on 28th October when 120 were recorded in 45 minutes.

Scarce at Flamborough during these latter months whilst at Filey 80 were reported on 31st August increasing to over 200 by early October thence decreasing to 80 in November and only three in December. 135 at Stone Creek on 5th October with fluctuating numbers there during the following two months with 103 on 14th December.

No outstanding numbers reported from Spurn with 50 on 18th January as the maximum during the early months and in the latter half of the year, 92 on 28th November and 73 the following day. Southerly passage there was light with 161 recorded on 22nd October; 146 on 29th October and 100 on 12th November.

### **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

65 at Ecclesall, Sheffield on 1st March was the highest flock reported during the early months, 60 at Keswick Fitts on 4th April with 36 at Esholt S.W. on 8th February and 30+ at Thorpe Marsh on 1st January.

Breeding status apparently unchanged with the exception of the Don Valley and Thorpe Marsh where a slight decrease on 1985 numbers was noted.

In the autumn, many parties of up to 40 noted from V.C. 64 with 100 at Fairburn Ings in late September and 86 there on 8th October; Mickletown Ings recorded 65 on 10th September and 50 at Throstle Nest Farm on 4th September.

Similarly in V.C. 63 numbers were larger during the latter months with 120 in the Wath area on 23rd September, 65 at Blacktoft Sands on 23 September; 45 to west at Wholestone Moor on 11th October and c40 at Sprotbrough on 13th October.

Excepting passage counts the highest numbers in V.C. 61 were reported during September with 82 at Pulfin Bog on 19th; 50 at Cowden on 27th and 36 at Watton Carrs on 13th. Passage was light at Spurn Point with 88 to the south on 14th May as the peak in spring and 38 on 29th and 31st October the maxima during autumn. At Sunk Island, along the Humber, 197 flew east on 4th October whilst the following day 121 flew east and 36 west; 100 east there on 18th October. None of these movements being noted at Spurn.

### **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

In the west of the county numbers were still quite high, a legacy from the large influx of 1985. 200 were at Hetchell Woods on 5th January on which date 150 were at Roche Abbey; 200 at Bardsey on 8th and 100 at Ripon on 14th. 70 at Bretton Park during January and February with 80 at Wymingbrook on 11th January; 100 in the Rivelin Valley on 12th; 112 at Worsbrough on 19th January decreasing to 50 by 8th February; 150 at Saltaire on 15th January had decreased to 50 by the 19th; 100 at Wentworth on 21st and 65 at Hillfoot Bridge, Sheffield on 16th February. The onset of the severe weather in V.C. 64 resulted in much smaller numbers excepting 70 at Esholt S.W. on 7th February though in the Pickering area large numbers were recorded feeding at bird tables during this period.

With the exception of 42 counted flying south at Spurn Point on 1st January, the only other counts of more than ten recorded in V.C. 61 were 24 at Saltend on the same date with 22 there on 25th January and 13 at Hornsea Mere on 4th January.

Although birds were reported from several locations during the breeding season the only definite records were from four upland locations in the west of V.C. 63.

Quite thinly distributed in V.C. 61 during the latter months with 40 at Hornsea Mere on 7th December as the highest; 20 at Spurn on 15th November; 37 at Paull on 5th October and up to 15 at Filey on 25th and 27th September with 13 at Flamborough on 12th October and ten there on 27th September. No other location reported more than seven.

19 at Duncombe Park on 14th October had decreased to 12 on 24th, these being the only records from V.C. 62 of double figures.

V.C. 63 reported flocks of 20 to 50 from Esholt; Heaton Woods and Grenoside though no dates and actual numbers quoted. 80 at Redmires on 27th September with 20 at

Frickley Park on 23rd December and 60 at Potteric Carr on 19th. Light westerly passage noted in the Sheffield area with 32 over Strines on 2nd October and 40 over Redmires on 29th.

V.C. 64 reported birds from 15 locations by the beginning of October with flocks of up to 30 birds during November and December but 70 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 29th November and 60 at Glasshouses and Ripon during December.

### **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Flocks during the early months of the year were relatively small with 200 at Flamborough on 8th February; 200 at Misson on 9th March increasing to 300 by 19th April. 200 at Farnley Tyas near Huddersfield on 22nd April. 150+ were at Old Denaby on 30th March with a similar figure at High Bradfield on 1st May and 120+ at Bramhope, Leeds on 16th March. 50 at Nosterfield on 1st May increasing to 147 on 19th whilst at Knotford Nook 100+ were reported on 3rd.

Passage along the coast was light in spring with c1600 birds being reported from Spurn during the three months of March to May inclusive; the days of most movement being 26th April with 250 to the south, 11th and 13th May when 220 and 290 respectively flew south.

Autumn passage was likewise light with 566 at Spurn on 26th September and 540 at Flamborough on the following day. 619 flew east at Sunk Island on 4th October, a movement not noted elsewhere though 300 were reported from Flamborough on 5th and 415 south at Spurn on the 6th. The maximum for October at Filey was reported as 400 though no date given.

565 at Wath on 27th August, the highest count anywhere during the latter months with 500 at Thrybergh on 16th September; 450 at Cherry Cobb/Stone Creek on 27th September with 330 there on 14th September. 300 at Wintersett Res. on 27th September and a similar count there on 5th October decreasing to 70 on 31st. Fairburn Ings recorded 240 on 2nd September as the peak there decreasing to 115+ on 21st; 125 on Ilkley Moor on 10th October and 150 at Nosterfield on 27th October. Clifton Airfield held 200+ during the months of October to December.

### **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Comments concerning the breeding status of this species received from V.C. 63 stated that it was very widespread in the Huddersfield uplands but breeding confined to two tetrads only though bred on many moorlands east of Derwentdale in the Sheffield area. In V.C. 64 virtually no reports were received.

A flock of up to 40 at Fairburn Ings on 10th January was quite exceptional.

Flocks in the spring months of 60 to 70 were recorded during late March from Broadstones with 20 there on 1st April; 47 on 5th April and 30 on 3rd May. Nine on Eccup Moor on 25th March with 13 near Addingham on 29th.

Flocks near the breeding locations were small in early autumn with the exception of 110 at Slaithwaite Moor on 27th September and 80 near Broadstones Res. on 21st August. Otherwise 40 at Duck Street Quarry on 27th September; 36 at Grimwith Res. on 5th August and 30 on Ilkley Moor on 14th September. 50 remained at Broadstones on 15th October.

57 flew west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th October whilst 38 flew south at Deer Hill on the same day; 23 to west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th October with light passage noted in the lowland areas of V.C. 64 with six at Fairburn on 20th September followed by two there on 21st and three on 22nd: a single bird at Esholt S.W. on 5th October.

Small numbers along the coast with 32 at Spurn on 11th October; 25 on 23rd October and 14 on 12th November; 11 on 31st October with nine on 15th November. Flamborough likewise had small counts with 21 on 8th October; 20 the following day increasing to 42 on 10th but only four on 12th. Nine on 24th and 27th November and 10 on 29th plus 10 on 20th December and 12 on 28th.

20 at Long Nab on 20th November whilst along the Humber; seven at Cherry Cobb on 18th October and at Broomfleet Ponds, three on 6th January; five on 31st thence eight to the west there on 3rd March.

### **Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Flocks during the early months were small with 50 at Wymingbrook on 9th January; 30 at Aldwark S.F. on 2nd March; 30 at Thorpe Marsh during January; 44 at Tophill Low Res. on 16th April with 30 there on 29th whilst 45 were reported from Wath Ings on 24th April.

Considered to have had a good breeding season in V.C. 64 in the Dacre Banks area and quite good in other locations with the result that there were many flocks in autumn of up to 25 though few very large ones. 60 recorded in Roundhay Park on 12th October; 55 at Eccup Res. on 17th December and 50 at Ripley Castle on 8th October. Reported breeding from the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas though only moderate numbers reported; autumn flocks reported were 60 at Old Denaby on 13th October; 100 at Potteric Carr on 8th October decreasing to 60 by 4th November. 100 at Rivelin Hagg between 24th and 31st October.

Coastal passage very light with 50 to the south at Spurn Point on 15th October as the maximum there.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Mealy Redpoll. *C.f. flammea* were reported from many locations at both ends of the year. 30 at Hay-a-Park on 16th February decreasing to 25 by 20th was the largest party reported with 18 at Tadcaster on 9th March and 11 at Blacktoft Sands on 7th March. Otherwise parties were generally between one and seven birds. Leighton Res. had seven present between 21st and 26th December with six at Flamborough on 12th October; five at Blacktoft on 8th November with 5+ at Aldwark S.F. during March. Six at Otley on 30th March with one to two occasionally reported from Worsbrough; Thrybergh; Carbrook; Sheffield; Tophill Low Res. Sunk Island; Atwick; Spurn; Harrogate and Lindley Wood Res.

### **Arctic Repoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*

A single bird first reported at Filey on 29th December 1985 remained there until 4th January. This bird was trapped during this period and accepted by the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Reports Committee as this species though at present it is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Of three birds observed at Flamborough on 17th October, one was attributable to this species whilst the other two were considered as probably of this species. These birds have not yet been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

### **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

A noticeable decline in the Dalby Forest though still considered to have bred there. In V.C. 63 probably bred in the Little Don Valley where three young were present from 10th March to 5th May. No proof in any other areas though birds were present during the year and considered to have bred in V.C. 64 at Otley Chevin; Lindley Wood Res. and Cookhouse Wood.

Numbers during the early months were good with many birds remaining from the influx last year. One to ten birds were recorded from many locations in V.C. 64 with larger flocks at Scar House Res. where 40 were reported on 5th January; 46 at Druids Plantation on 25th January; 30+ at Otley Chevin on 8th January; 31 at Barden on 12th February; 30 at Gouthwaite on 21st March with 35 there on 10th and 30 on 19th April at Lindley Wood Res.

Small numbers in the Huddersfield area whilst near Sheffield 25 were at Wymingbrook on 9th May. 20 to 30 were recorded at Gilling Wood in V.C. on 9th March.

During the latter months numbers were generally smaller though at Wymingbrook 55 were reported on 11th August with some still present at the end of the year. An influx in July brought up to 20 to the Redmires and Strines areas whilst at Howden 15 were

recorded on 7th December. In V.C. 64 12 at Lindley Wood Res. on 26th December was the highest number reported. 20 at Baker's Warren in V.C. 62 on 24th September.

In the east, few were reported with the exception of 30 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th July and ten there on 14th June; Three at Hornsea Mere on 2nd November with single birds at Spurn on 8th and 23rd June; two there on 26th. Single at Filey on 14th July and Spurn on 26th July and 17th August.

#### **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A single at Spurn between 29th August and 1st September (GJS: JH: NAB *et al*).

#### **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Breeding status apparently unchanged. The largest flock reported was of c20 which frequented Thorpe Marsh during October and November. 20 were recorded flying west over Redmires on 31st October whilst 17 were reported from Lindley Wood Res. on 4th December; 16 at Fairburn Ings on 28th November; 15 at Esholt on 5th January with a similar count at Wath on 29th November and at High Batts on 5th and 25th October. 17 at Broomfleet Ponds on 4th January.

A single male at Flamborough on 15th November was considered to belong to the nominate race *P.p. pyrrhula* as was a female present at Spurn Point on 8th and 9th November and what was probably the same bird again on 11th to 13th.

#### **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A single at Spurn Point on 18th and 19th April was the first record there since 1978 and the only record from V.C. 61.

A pair near Scarborough on 14th May was also the only record received from V.C. 62.

V.C. 63 reported two pairs breeding in the Sheffield area where also three males were holding territory whilst in the Little Don Valley at Sprotbrough two pairs also bred. Single birds were reported from Bretton Park during the winter months though two were present there on 6th May; three at Stainbrough on 6th December with several locations around Sheffield recording birds, again mainly during the winter with seven at Wooley Woods during December and one to the southwest over Strines on 30th September and one at Wymingbrook on 17th November. Four at Cannon Hall on 4th November with two there on 14th December.

Quite well distributed in the Doncaster area with single birds being reported from Stainton; Finningley and Almholm whilst at Howell Wood two were present on 5th January and three at Newington on 6th. A maximum of five at Sprotbrough on 24th December with a single at Wilsic on 20th.

As usual the largest numbers were recorded in V.C. 64 though a little lower than previous years with 26 at Studley Park/Fountains Abbey being the highest count there. One to four birds were reported from five other locations in the Harrogate area; at two locations in the Leeds area and on 23 days from Fairburn, all during the period January to late May. From early autumn there were fewer records with birds being recorded at Fairburn on only eight occasions; from five locations near Leeds and two near Harrogate and all involving single birds with the exception of four at High Batts on 26th June and 10 at Westwick on 28th August.

#### **Lapland Bunting** *Calcaeus lapponicus*

Three at Spurn on 1st January with five to the south there on 17th and then one to two birds on ten days with the last on 19th May. Six at Barmston on 2nd January with four there on 11th and ten on 25th. In February 70 were counted on 22nd when 45 were at Bridlington though some of these may have been the same birds. Up to four at Filey during January and up to seven there during February until 9th. One to two at Grimston in the first three months of the year whilst along the Humber single birds were reported from Paull on 5th January; Stone Creek on 9th February and at Thorgumbald on 2nd March.

The first of the autumn were singles at Flamborough and Spurn Point on 14th September, thereafter at Spurn, small numbers until the end of the year with three on 25th October; four on 12th November and five on 15th. Southerly passage was noted there on 16 days from late September with 25 on 22nd October; 59 on 15th November, 14 on 17th and singles on 7th and 12th December.

Further north along the coast, eight were at Barmston on 15th November on which date six flew south at Bridlington. Higher counts at Barmston though were reported on 12th November when 46 were present; 34 on 16th increasing to 75 on 20th thence 15 on 28th November but 90 on 19th December (BR).

One to three at Flamborough during September with 16 on 27th thence during October 12 on 11th and five on 12th; seven on 15th November. At Filey nine were recorded on 10th October with 15 on 15th otherwise only one to two during the period 3rd October to 3rd November. Long Nab, in V.C. 62, reported four on 20th November with 20 there on 21st; 26 on 23rd and six on 27th (MFr.)

Single to the east at Sunk Island on 2nd November with singles at Paull on 27th September; Cherry Cobb Sands on 18th October and two at Cherry Cobb on 6th December. Further up the river at Blacktoft Sands single birds were recorded on 12th October, flying south; 6th December, again south and to the west on 14th December.

Inland, three were at Tophill Low Res. on 31st October, (IF: RL: PMS), these being the first recorded from this location. A single at Misson on 5th January and at Broomhill Flash on 10th December; Fairburn Ings on 18th December and 30th (JMT: NPW: TDC: RS)

### **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Another poor year at Spurn with eight on 27th January being the highest count during the early months, slightly more birds at Easington/Kilnsea where 15 were reported on 1st January; 13 the following day thence decreasing to about seven until 15th February when 11 were recorded. Scarce in the Barmston/Wilthorpe area with 15 there on 11th January as the maximum count. Up to eight were present at Filey during the early weeks of the year but increased to 40 on 9th February during severe weather after which numbers returned to normal with 14 in March and four during April as the most recorded.

More widespread during the autumn with between 15 and 38 at Spurn Point during late November and in December between 20 and 38 present in the first and third weeks of December. 12 at Hornsea Mere on 2nd December whilst further north at Barmston 49 were present on 12th November; 42 on 20th November; 103 on 19th December thence fluctuating with 40 on 21st, 60 on 27th, 31 on 28th and 65 on 29th. 17 at Flamborough on 15th November being the highest number reported there whilst at Filey up to 26 were present during the first week of November thence 34 to the south on 3rd December and 15 on 10th. 30 at Burniston on 20th November with 40+ there on 21st and 23rd whilst inland at Fylingdales 23 were reported on 18th November. 20 at Sleights on 13th December.

Small numbers reported from V.C. 63 with two at Wessenden on 2nd January; singles in the Little Don Valley on 26th January; at Blacktoft Sands on 17th and 26th January and 9th February with one at Whitley Common on 8th and 9th November.

A good year in V.C. 64 with four near Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 8th January; 12 near Harrogate on 26th January and then five at Greenhow with single birds at Farnham and Fairburn on 9th February; one of the birds at Greenhow remaining until 16th. Six recorded on Fountains Fell on 7th March.

In autumn a single bird was reported from near Lofthouse on 8th and 9th November with two on Fountains Fell on 29th November; a single bird in the car park at Harrogate Railway Station on 11th December and one on Middleton Moor on 28th December.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Apparently no change in the breeding status.

January saw a large flock in the Atwick area with 200 on 1st; 95 the following day and c150 on 26th. 100+ at Eccup on 5th had increased to 200+ by 19th with 143 still present there on 15th February. 110 at Silverwood near Rotherham on 15th January; 100 at Thrybergh on 9th January and a similar count at Winterset Res. on 28th January. Many other locations reported flocks of between 20 and 60 during the first three months of the year including 60 at Hay-a-Park on 6th January; 70 at Flamborough on 5th February; 60 at Cowlam Bottoms on 1st February and 60+ at Thorpe Marsh on 12th January.

Flocks during the latter months were smaller though 185 at Wothersome on 12th September; 135 at Wath on 6th December; 156 at Thrybergh on 12th December. 80 at Keswick Fitts on 9th December, 75 in the Crimble Valley on 2nd December.

Little coastal passage noted though 84 at Flamborough on 19th April with 40 there on 27th September and 60 on 15th November whilst at Spurn Point very few were reported with the exception of 55 on 21st December.

**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*

A single male at Bempton on 3rd June (Miss S.W.)

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

Single birds at Flamborough on 23rd/24th August and 26th when three were reported from Filey (PAL: IS: HJW *et al*). Three were recorded from Flamborough on 28th August (PAL) whilst at Spurn single birds were recorded on 29th August and 5th September.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

A single bird, seen at Spurn Point on 12th October was trapped and ringed the following day (TAE: CCS: BRS *et al*). Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee and the fourth record for the Observatory.

A second bird, unringed, seen at Spurn on 15th October (NAB) is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. On 18th October a bird was also seen in the same vicinity though was not observed to be ringed or not and is considered to have been one of the two previous birds. (DP: LTD: JMT).

Single birds at Skipton S.W. on 21st September (PMW) and at Flamborough on 3rd and 4th November (PAL: AG: JCL). The first has been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee whilst the second has not yet been submitted to them.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

During the severe weather of January and February was reported from suburban gardens in Leeds, Huddersfield and Sheffield.

Winter roosts at Blacktoft Sands had returned to the 1984 level with 150 there on 16th January and 200 in the latter months with 250 on 25th December. Wintering flocks around Filey reported as being a little higher than last year with up to 60 during February and 20 in November whilst at Hornsea Mere only recorded on three days during the first three months of the year though at Atwick good numbers were reported during January with up to 90 in company with Yellowhammers.

Although few comments were received concerning breeding the 120 pairs at Blacktoft was a reduction whilst at Tophill Low Res. there was possibly a slight reduction. 36 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings with 20 at Mickletown Ings.

Coastal passage was light with 32 at Spurn on 26th September as the highest count there whilst at Flamborough an isolated peak of 81 was reported on 13th October. 55 flew east at Sunk Island on 4th and 5th October.

Flocks during the latter months were small with the exception of Blacktoft previously mentioned; 53 at Wath Ings on 6th December being the highest reported with 38 at

Fairburn Ings during late September; 28 in early October and 36 during early November. 23 at Clifton Airfield on 28th November.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

Flocks along the coast in the early months were quite large with c130 at Atwick on 26th January; 310 on stubble near Thorngumbald on 18th and at Filey up to 60 present during January which increased to 460 during February. 70 at Barmston on 25th January whilst at Sunk Island up to 60 were present throughout the first two months with a similar number present at Spurn Point in the first three weeks of the year.

Elsewhere numbers were small with 50 at Pugney's on 8th January; 32 there on 8th February and 28th on 13th. 13 at Thrybergh on 6th January. V.C. 64 reported a disastrous year with only seven records from the Harrogate area involving one or two birds except for four at Hay-a-Park in spring.

A roost at Wath held 35 on 22nd April increasing to 60 by 18th May.

Breeding was reported in V.C. 64 only from Fairburn Ings where "a few pairs bred just off the reserve" and from V.C. 63 at Winterset where "where a few pairs bred". No change reported from V.C. 61.

Gatherings during the latter months quite low with 52 at Thorngumbald on 27th September; 35 at Thrybergh on 12th December. 40 at Wath during November and up to 100 at Broomhill on 10th December.

100 at Spurn on 28th and 29th November with 70 on 10th/11th December; 95 on 30th and 80 on 31st.

## The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

### Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver  
Black-throated Diver  
Slavonian Grebe  
Black-necked Grebe  
Cory's Shearwater  
Great Shearwater  
Storm Petrel  
Leach's Petrel  
Purple Heron  
White Stork  
Bean Goose  
Red-crested Pochard  
Ferruginous Duck  
Honey Buzzard  
Red Kite  
Montagu's Harrier  
Goshawk  
Rough-legged Buzzard  
Golden Eagle  
Hobby  
Spotted Crake  
Stone Curlew  
Kentish Plover  
Temminck's Stint  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Grey Phalarope

Pomarine Skua  
Long-tailed Skua  
Mediterranean Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Sabine's Gull  
Roseate Tern  
Black Guillemot  
Woodlark  
Richard's Pipit  
Bluethroat  
Cetti's Warbler  
Savi's Warbler  
Aquatic Warbler  
Marsh Warbler  
Icterine Warbler  
Melodious Warbler  
Barred Warbler  
Yellow-browed Warbler  
Firecrest  
Red-breasted Flycatcher  
Golden Oriole  
Chough  
Raven  
Serin  
Scarlet Rosefinch  
Cirl Bunting  
Ortolan Bunting

### British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the annual Report on rare birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

### Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of rare well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

## Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1986 have been received and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

- V.C. 61: Filey Brigg Ornithological Group  
           Spurn Bird Observatory  
           Tophill Low Wildlife Group
- V.C. 62: Pickering Ornithological Group
- V.C. 61,  
 62 and 64: York Ornithological Club
- V.C. 63: Barnsley and District Bird Study Group  
           Doncaster and District Ornithological Society  
           Halifax Scientific Society  
           Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club  
           Rotherham Naturalists' Society  
           Sheffield Bird Study Group  
           Wakefield Naturalists' Society
- V.C. 64: Bradford Naturalists' Society  
           Castleford and District Naturalists' Society  
           Craven Naturalists' and Scientific Society  
           Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve  
           Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society  
           Leeds Birdwatchers Club  
           Wharfedale Naturalists' Society

Reports were also received from individuals or groups for their particular areas being as follows: in V.C. 61, Bampton Cliffs RSPB Reserve; Broomfleet Ponds; Cherry Cobb Sands and Stone Creek; Flamborough Ornithological Group; Hornsea Mere RSPB Reserve; Sunk Island. In V.C. 63, Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve; Pugney's G.P.; Winterset Res. and Angler's Lake. In V.C. 64, Esholt S.W.; Mickletown Ings; Settle.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

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